

J E T S C O M I C S

烈火の国

8



三浦建太郎



百年に渡る戦乱がつづく中世。戦乱平定をめざすミッドランド王国で正規軍となった最強の傭兵団「鷹の団」はリーダー・グリフィスの許、次々と武功をあげていた。ミッドランドとチューダーは覇権を賭け最終決戦に突入、「鷹の団」もめざましい活躍をみせる。難攻不落のドルドレイ城塞を単独で攻める鷹の団5千騎は城塞守備軍・紫犀聖騎士団を城より遠くはなれた場所におびきだした。その間、キャス力率いる一隊が城塞に潜入、これこそグリフィスの策だった。時間との戦いが始まった。

タイトルデザイン/ADOX
カバーデザイン/ZEN CORPORATION



ベルセルク

8

三浦建太郎

白泉社

690

J E T S C O M I C S



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ベルセルク 8 三浦建太郎

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白泉社

BERSERK

白 泉 社

מלכות

BERSERK

ベルセルク⑧

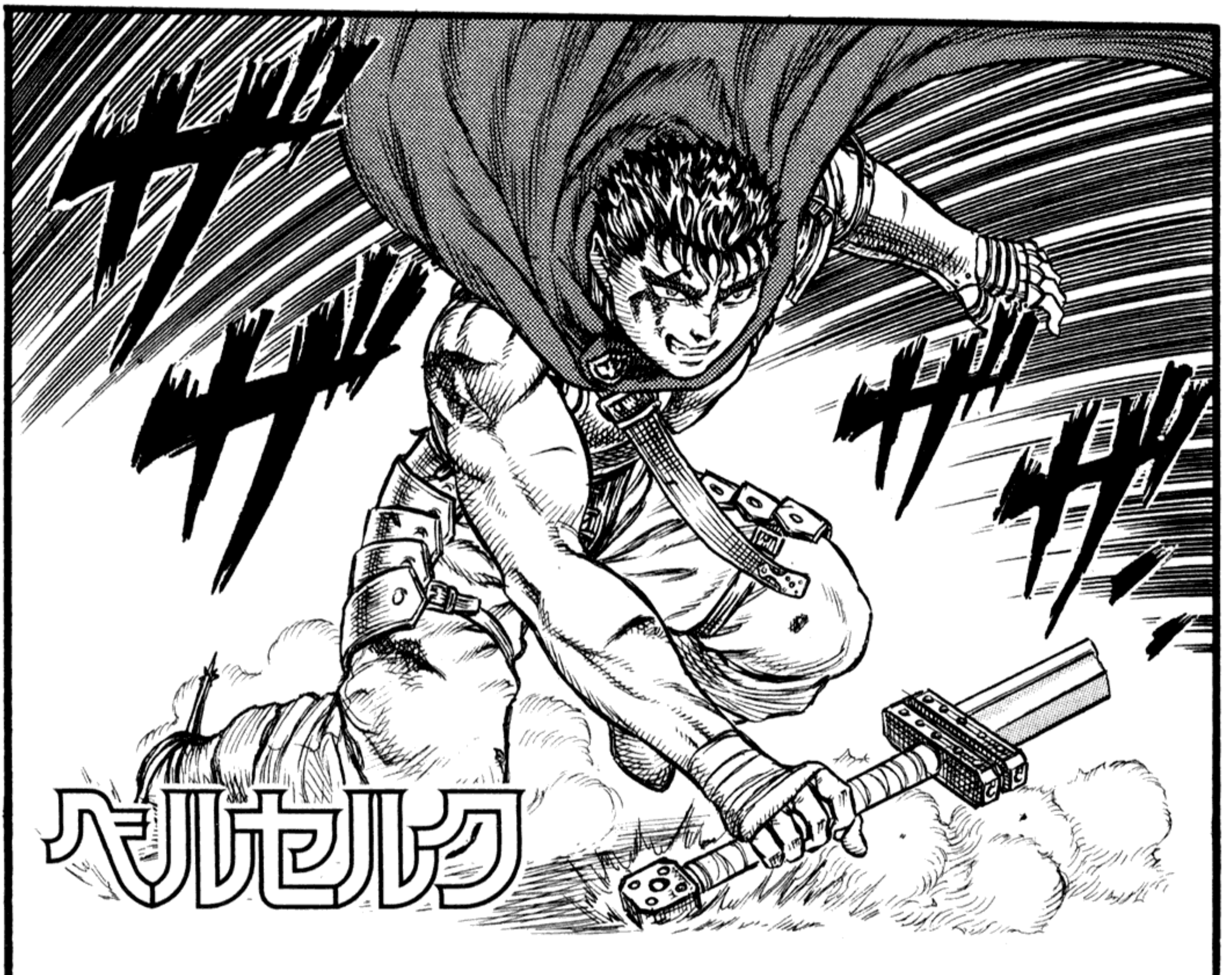
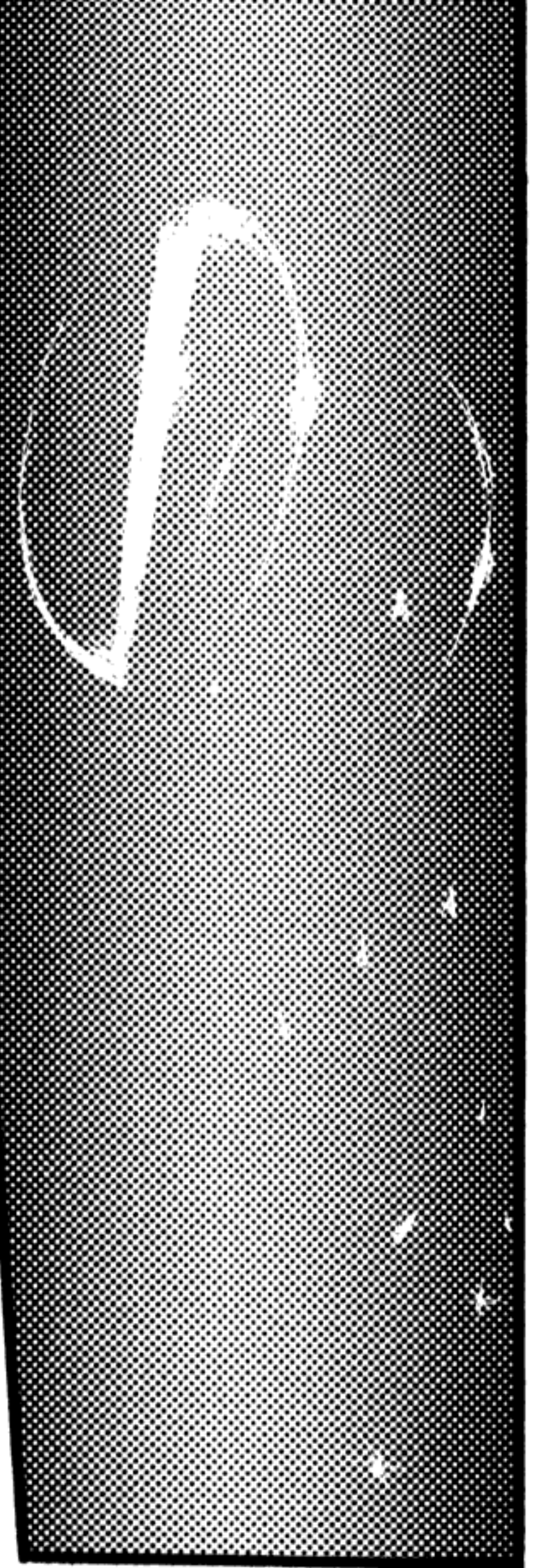
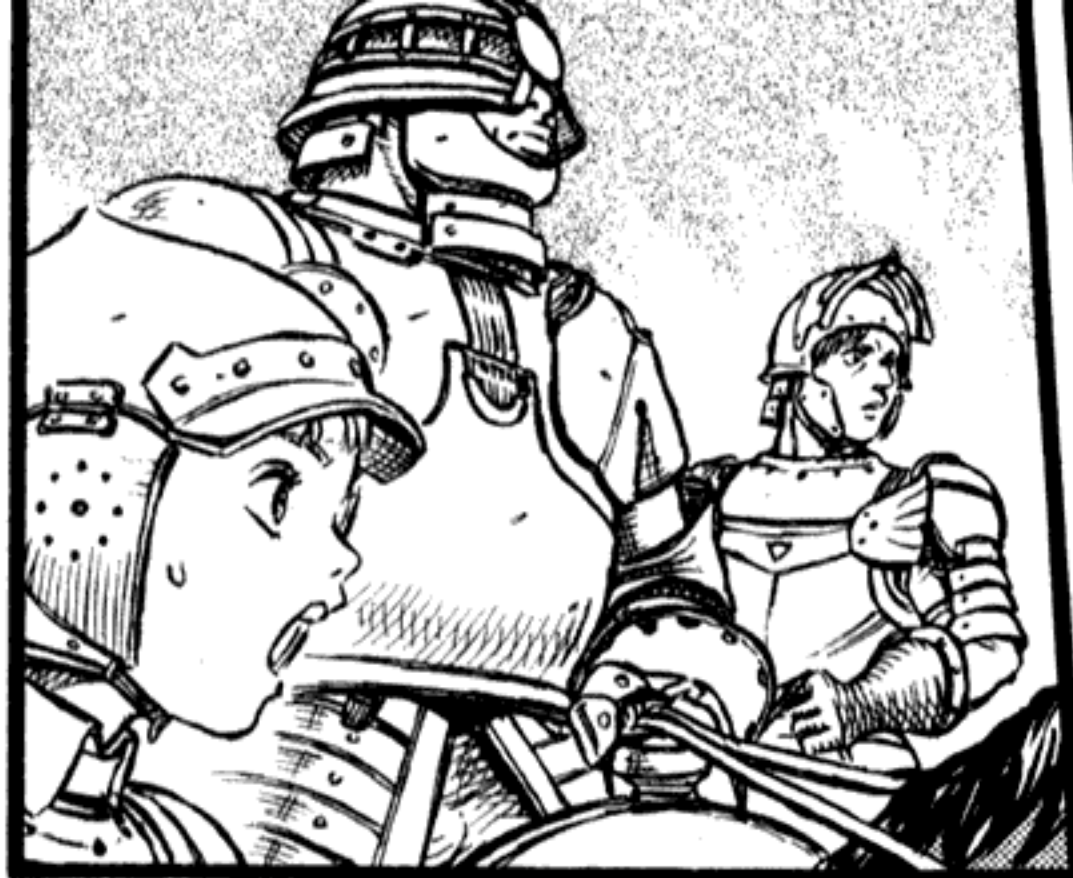


三浦建太郎



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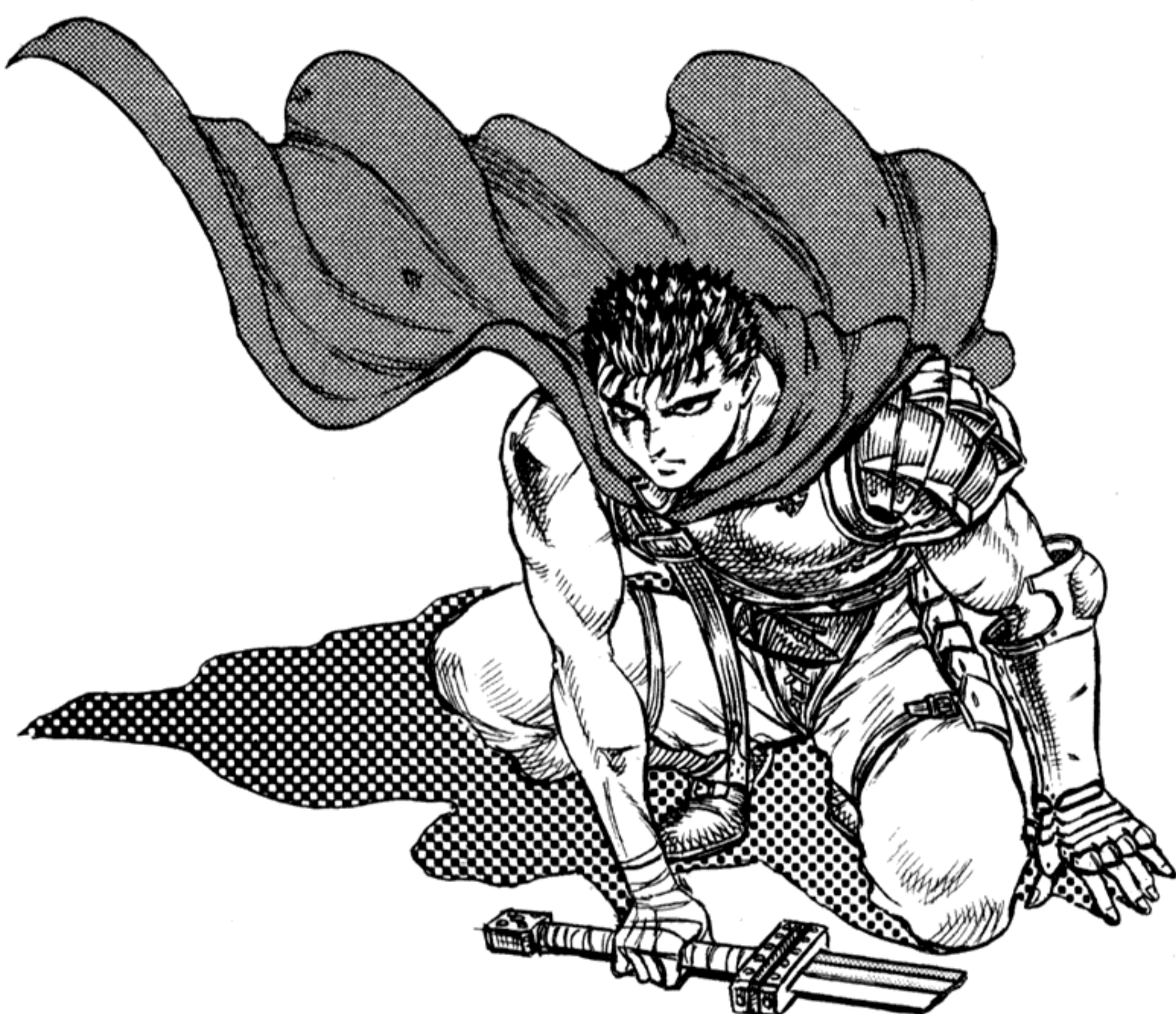
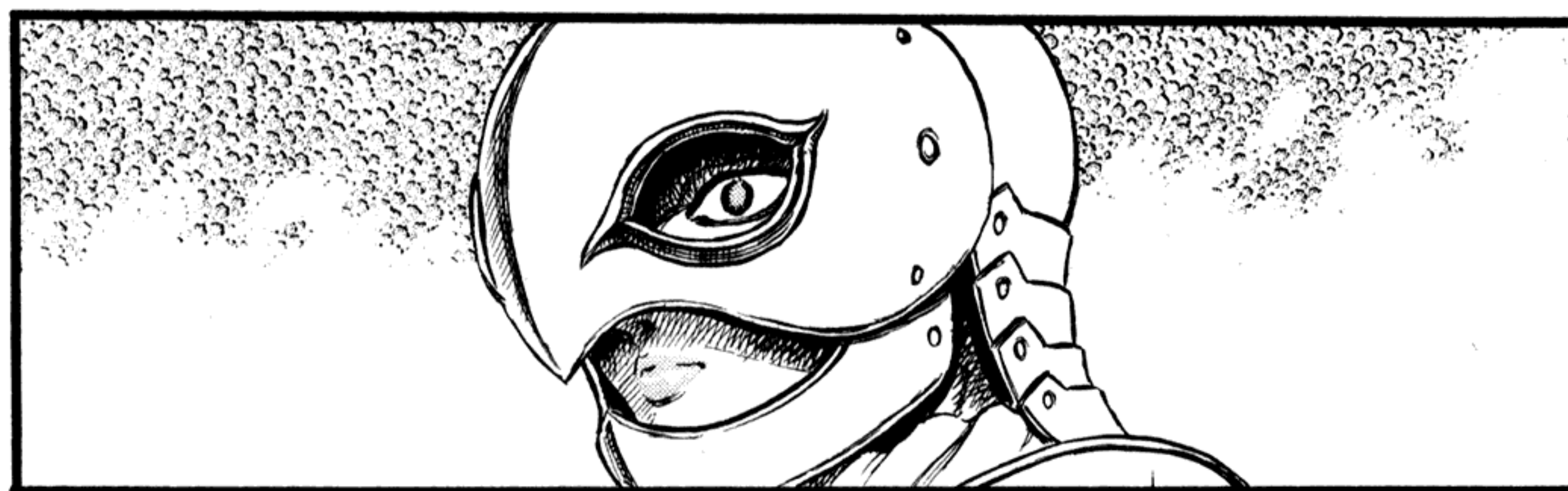
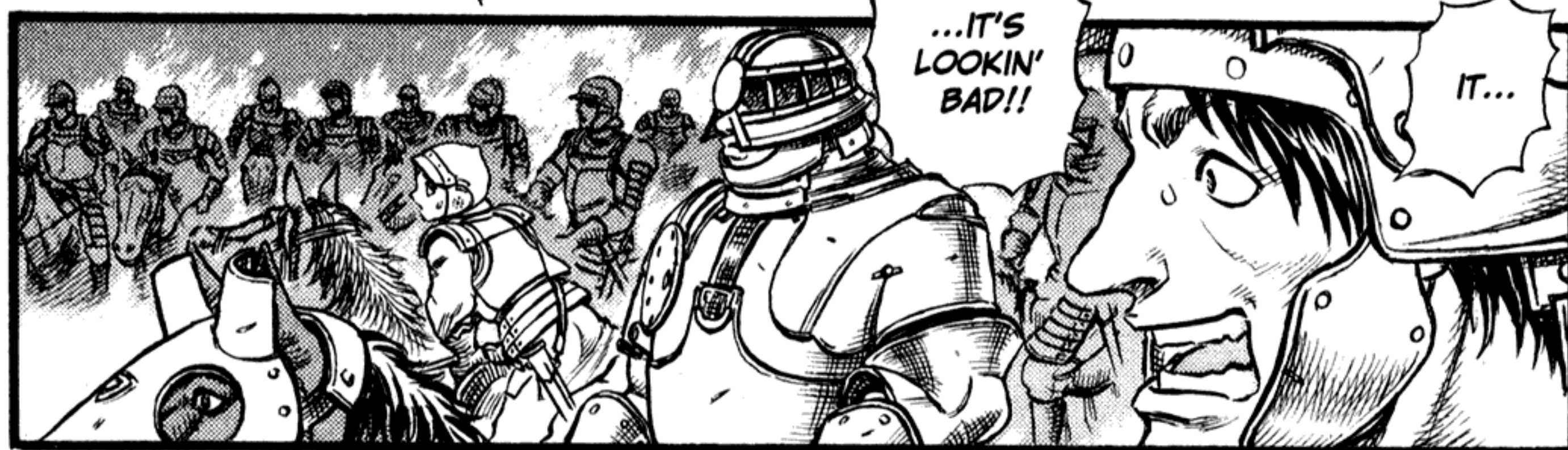


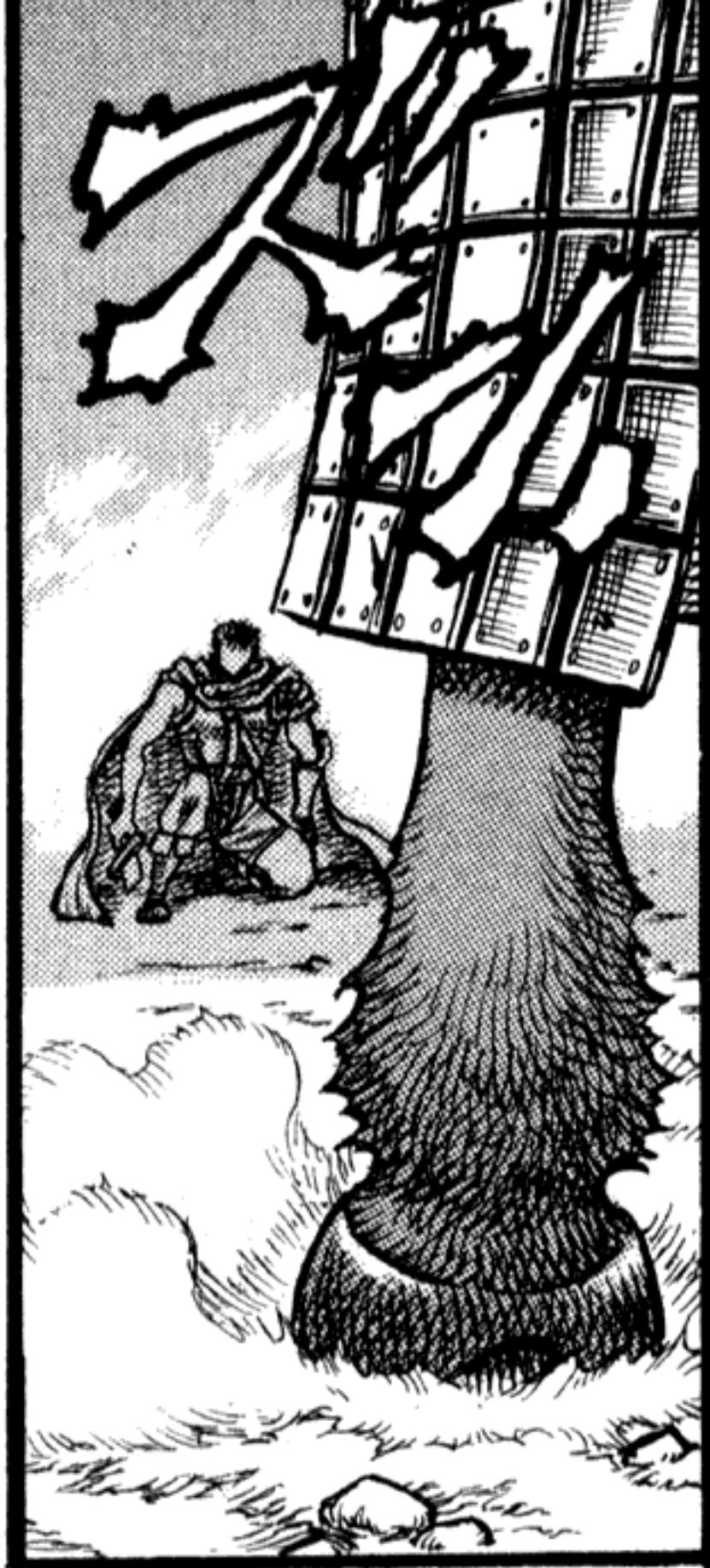
魔界



ドルドレイ攻略戦(5)

THE BATTLE FOR DOLDREY
CHAPTER 5





I WAS
CARELESS!
DAMN
IT!!

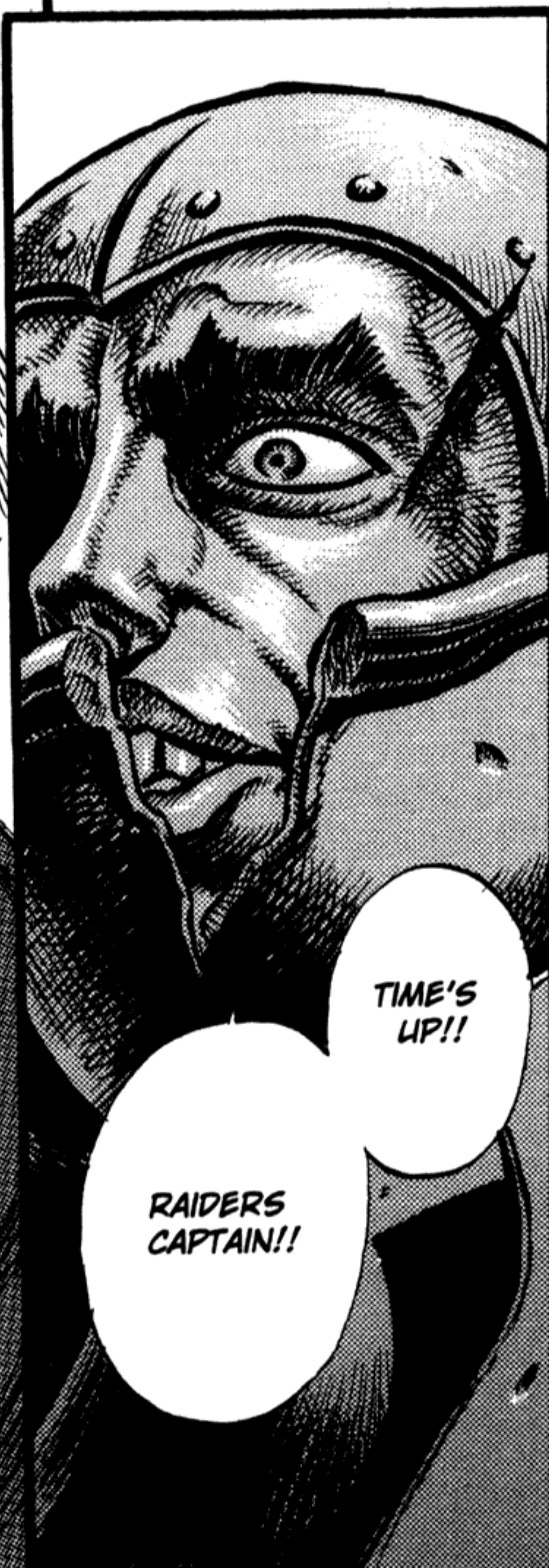


MY SWORD
WAS MESSED
UP FROM
FIGHTING
THOSE
HUNDRED
MEN!!



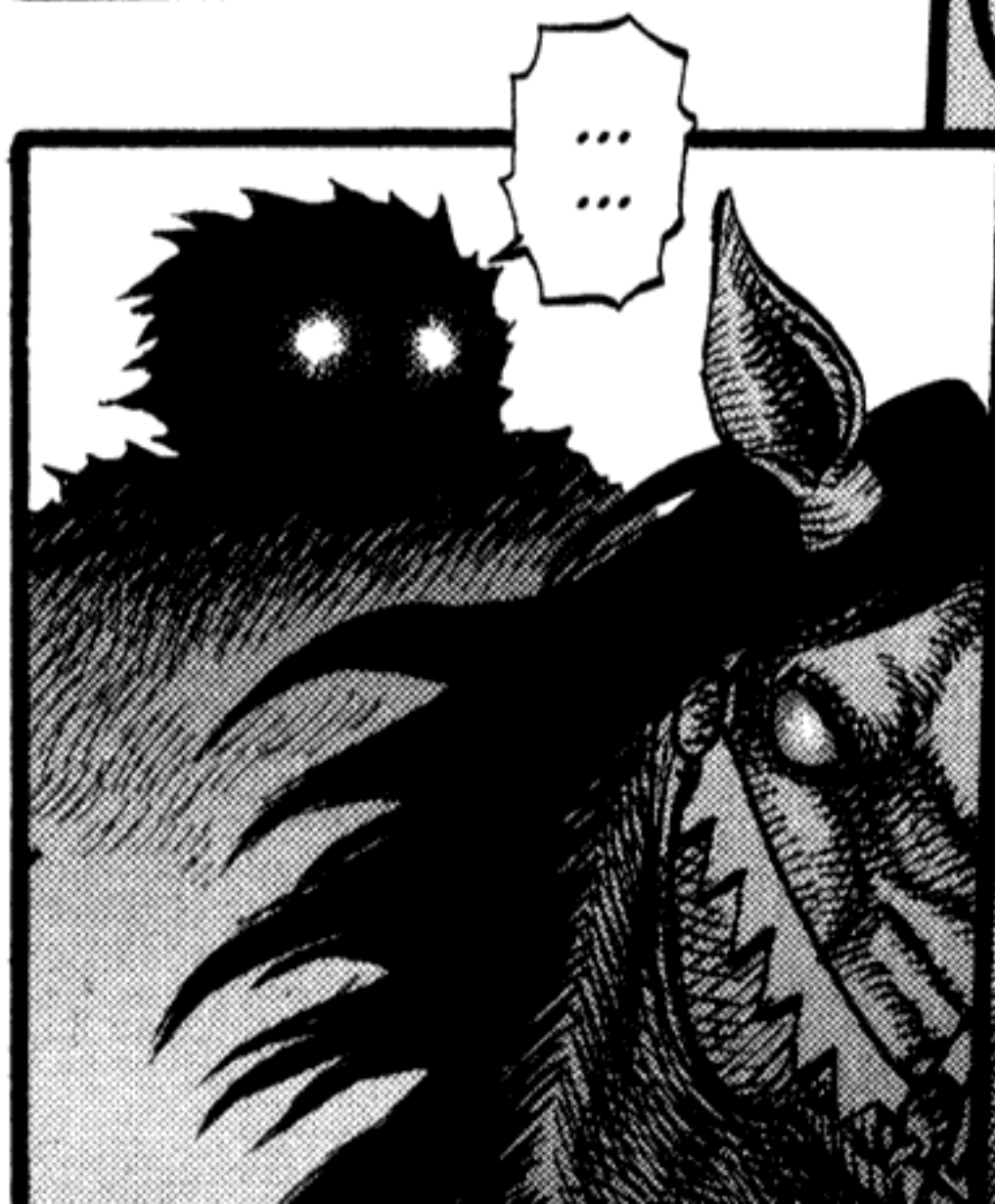
オオオオ... オオ...

WHAT
NOW?!



TIME'S
UP!!

RAIDERS
CAPTAIN!!



...

ゴオオオオオオ



HYAHHHH!!!

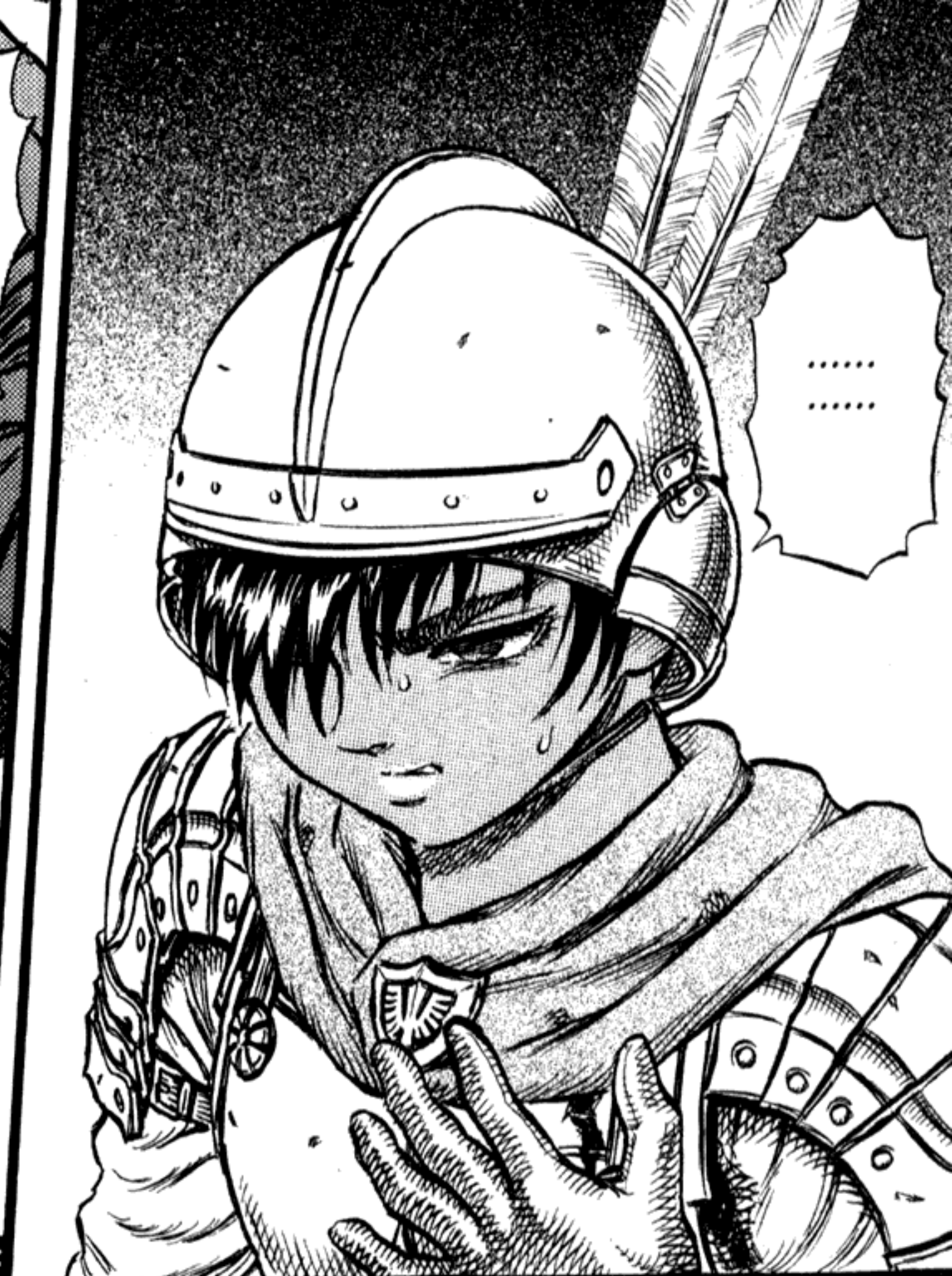
COME
ON!!
COME
ON!!



DON'T
STRUGGLE,
IT'S
USELESS!!

IF YOU OBEY
ME AND THROW
DOWN YOUR SWORD,
I WOULDN'T BE
OPPOSED TO LETTING
YOU LIVE AS MY
OWN PERSONAL TOY...!!

EVEN IF YOU
WISH TO FIGHT,
CAN YOU EVEN
MOVE FREELY?!



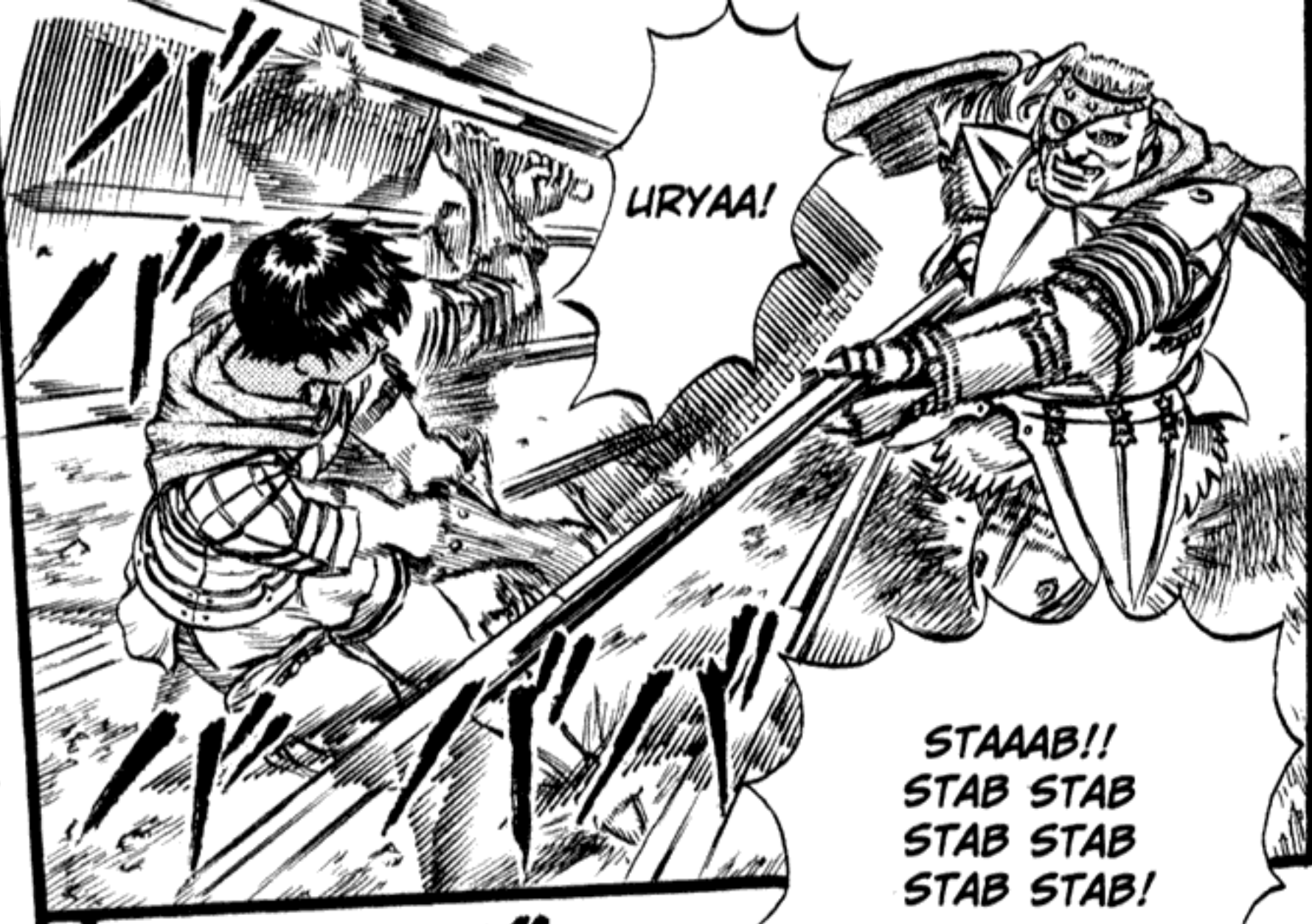
IF
YOU
REFUSE
...!!

SIS!!

HAIYAAAA!!

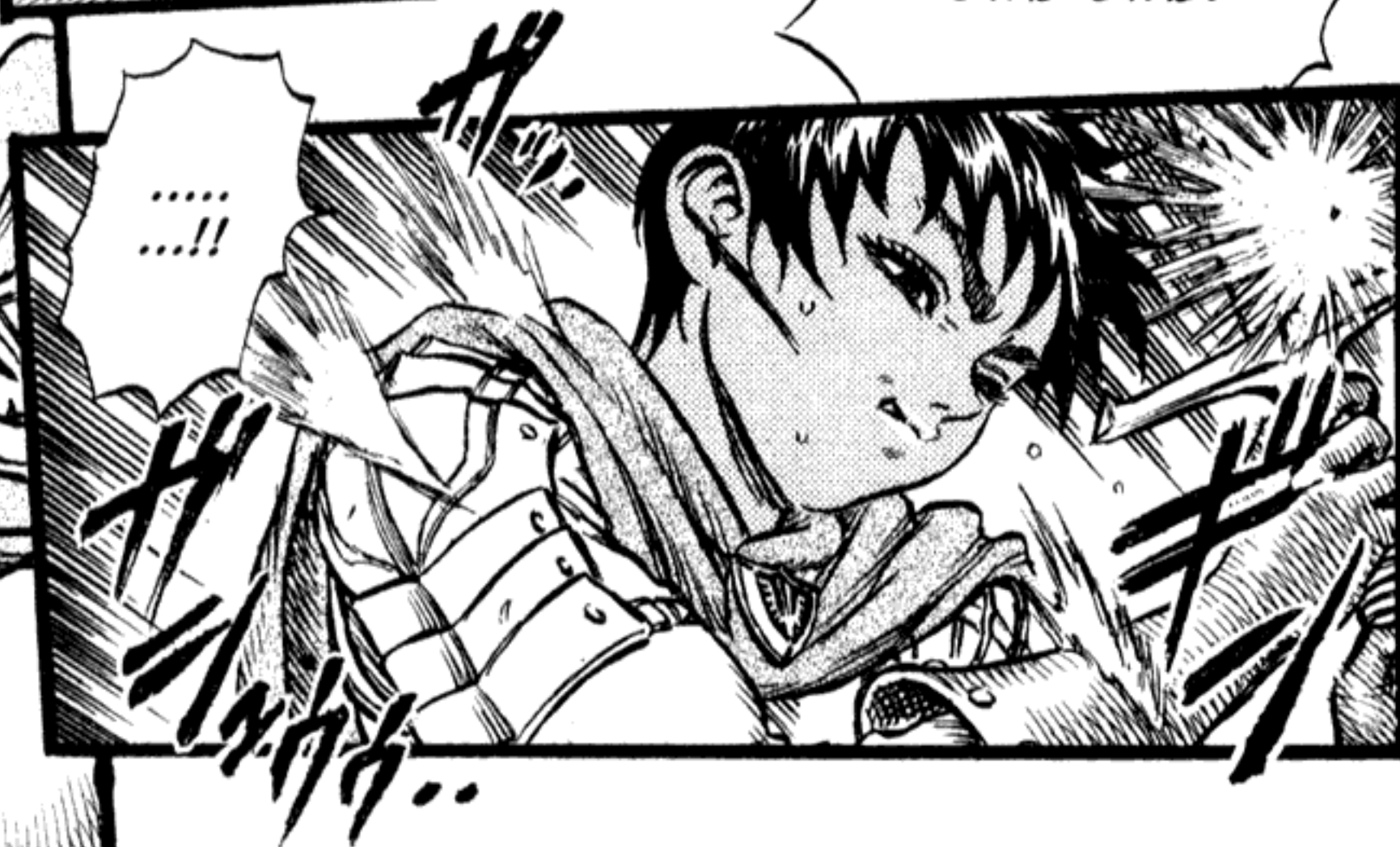


TROUBLE
...



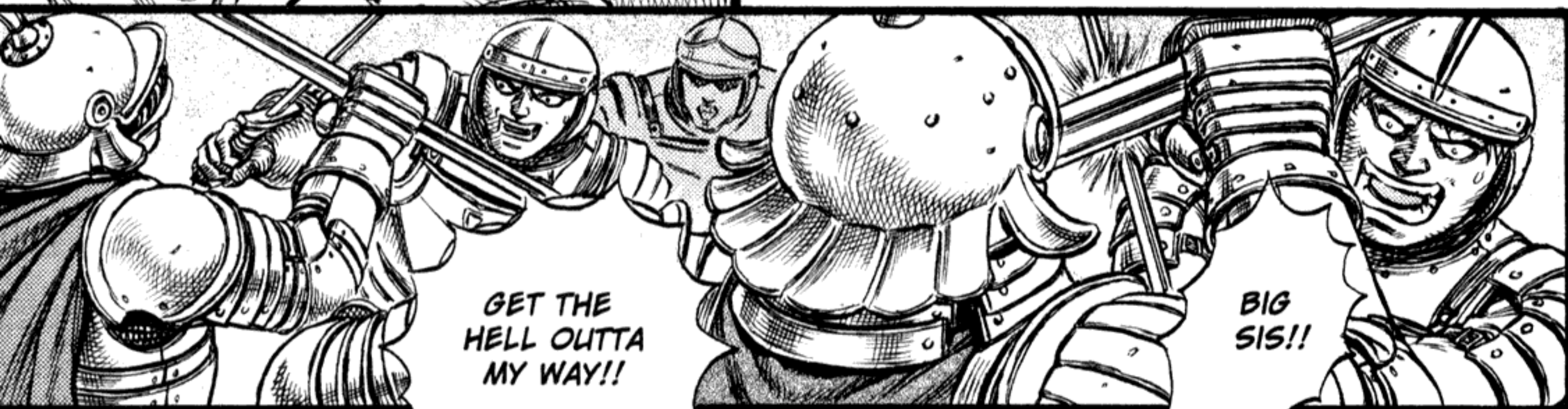
URYAA!

STAAAB!!
STAB STAB
STAB STAB
STAB STAB!



.....
...!!

IF I
MOVE
AROUND,
THE
DRUG.....



GET THE
HELL OUTTA
MY WAY!!

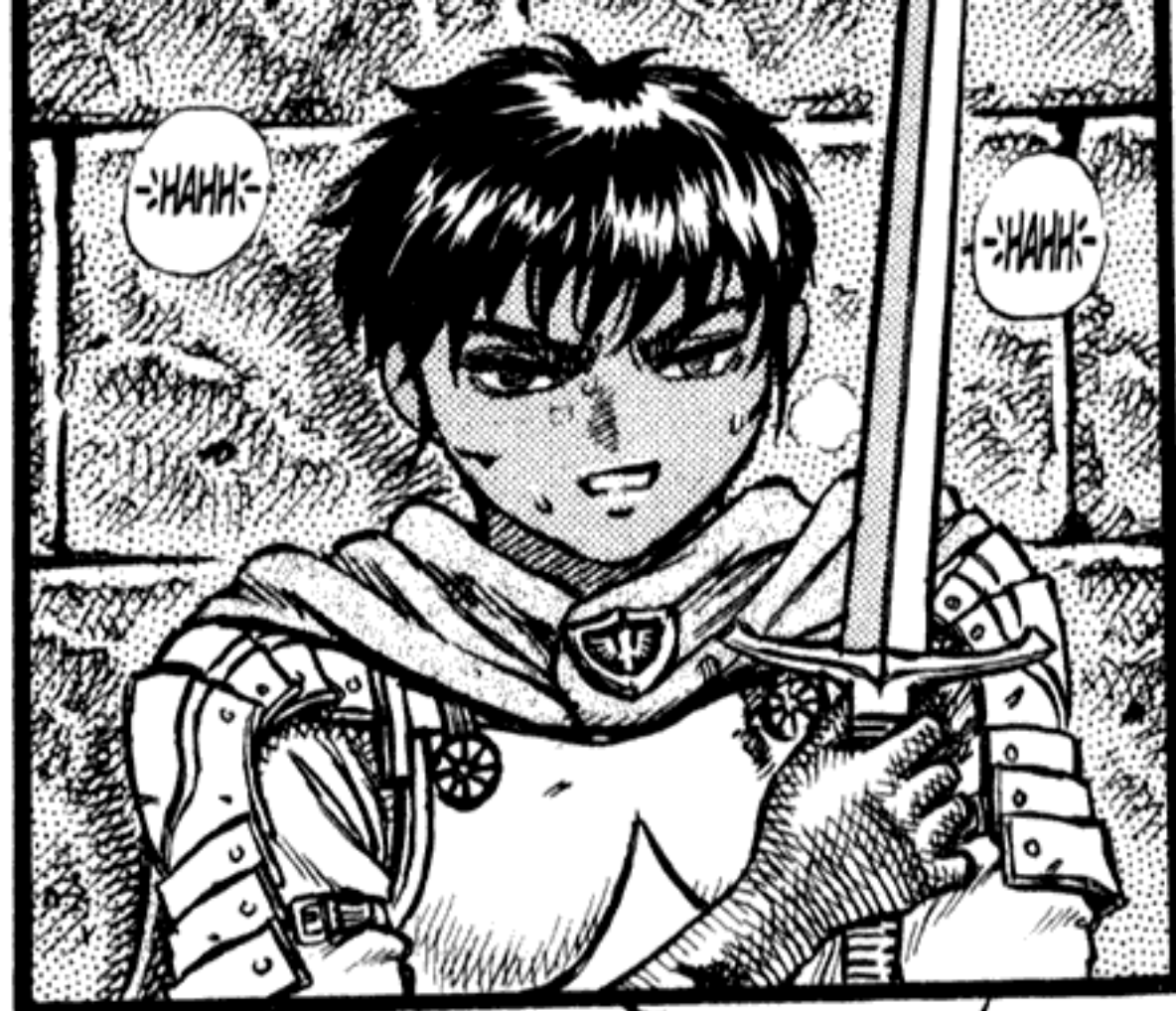
BIG
SIS!!



どっは

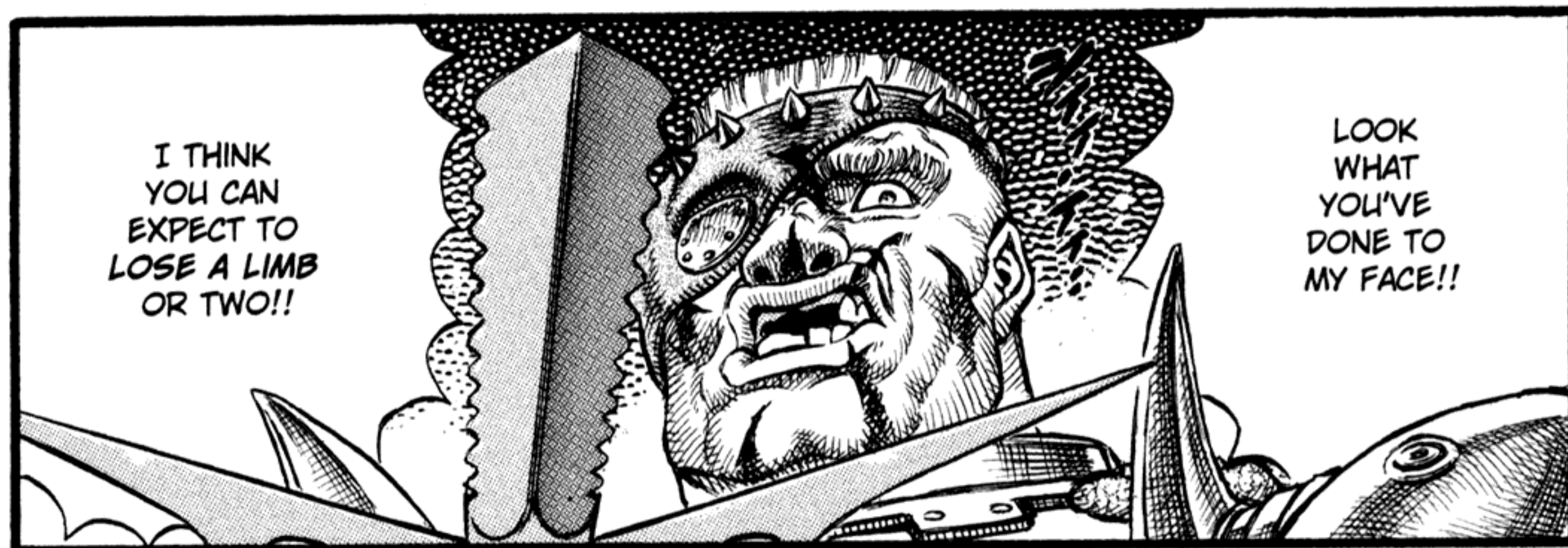
ああ

ドッロ



THERE'S
NOWHERE
LEFT TO
RUN!!

WHAT
WILL
YOU
DO?!



I THINK
YOU CAN
EXPECT TO
LOSE A LIMB
OR TWO!!

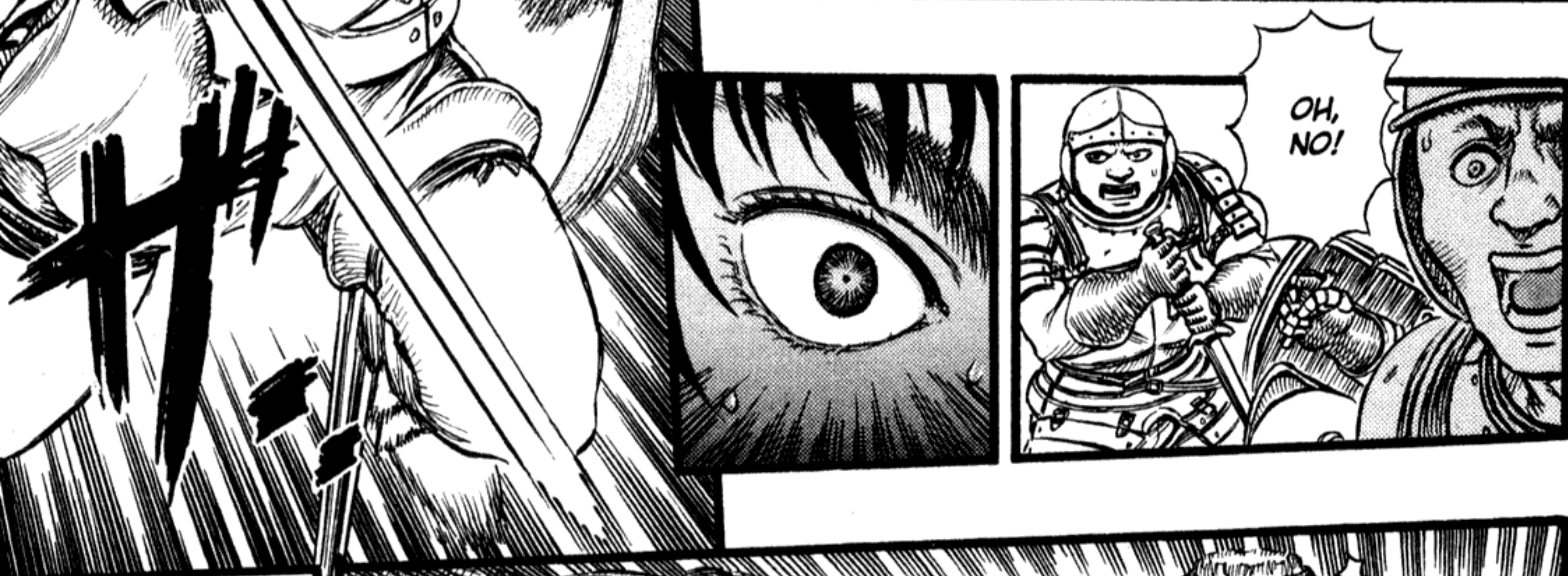
LOOK
WHAT
YOU'VE
DONE TO
MY FACE!!



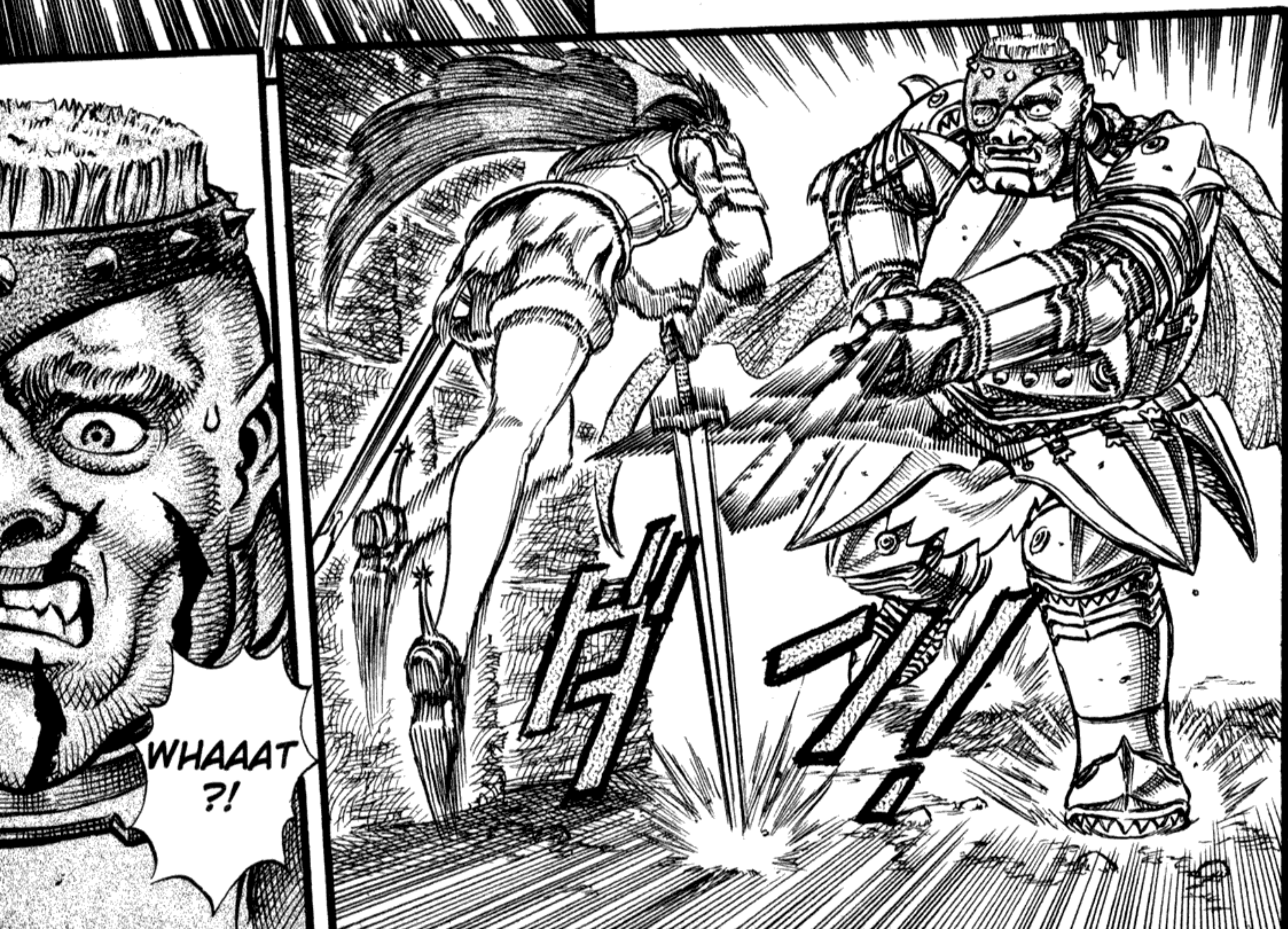
THEN YOU
CAN TAKE YOUR
TIME DECIDING
WHETHER
YOU'LL BE MY
CAPTIVE OR
DIE IN THIS
PLACE!!



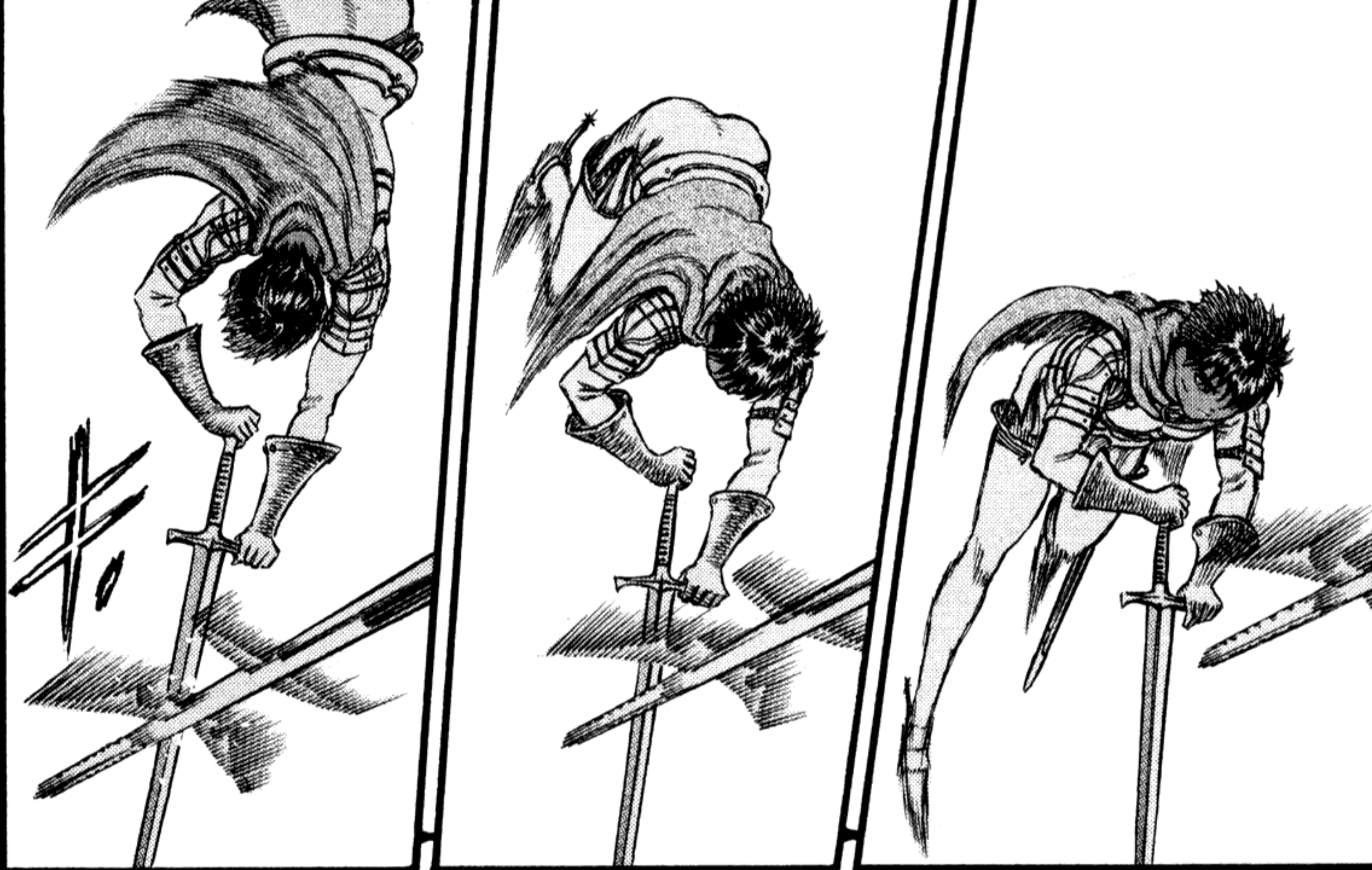
LET'S
START
BELOW THE
WAIST!!

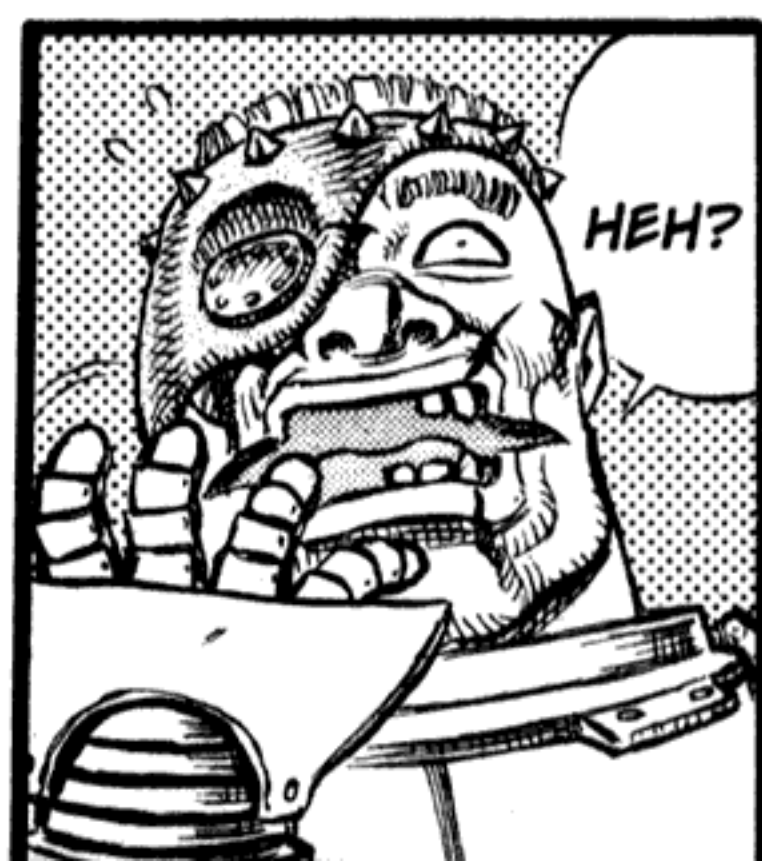
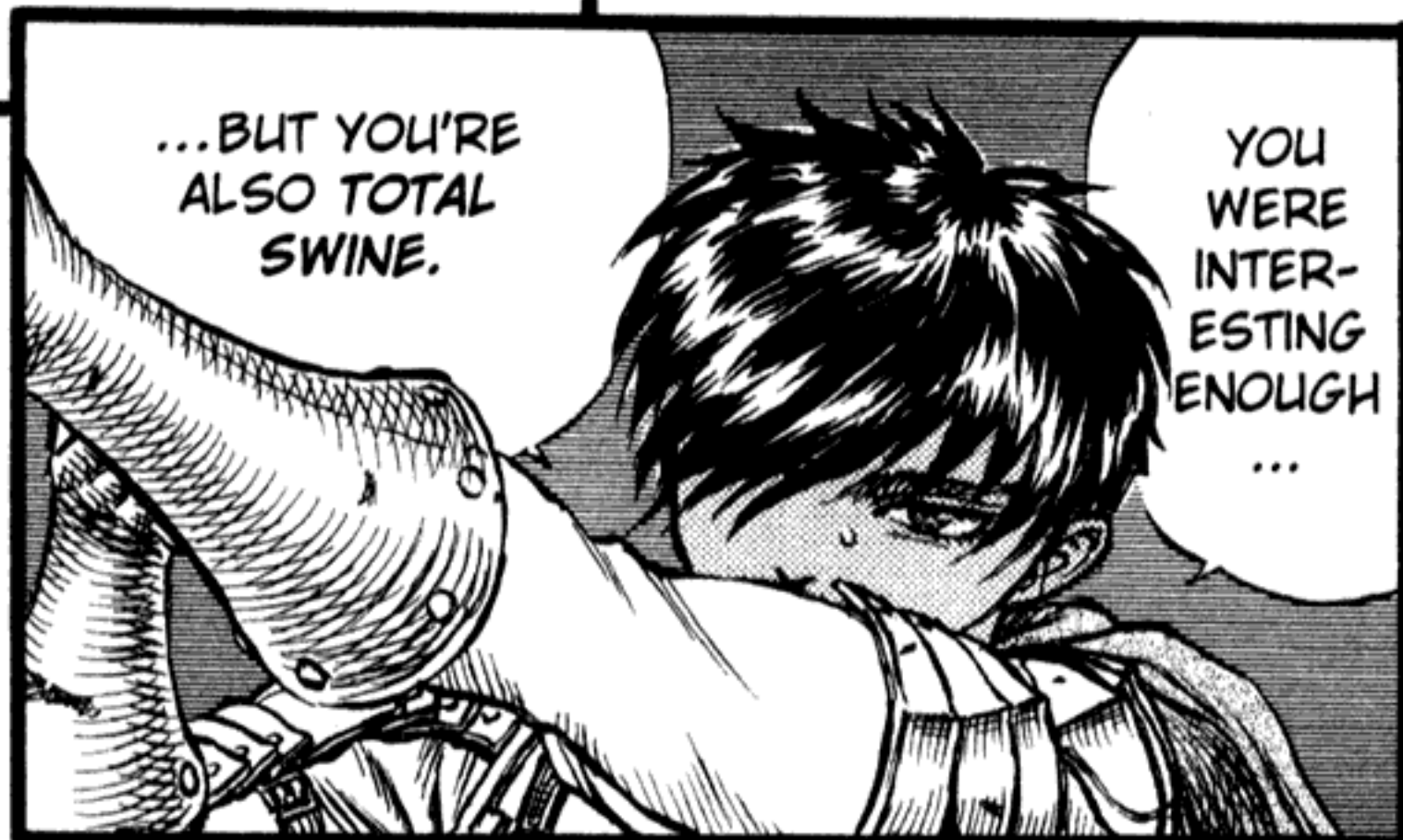
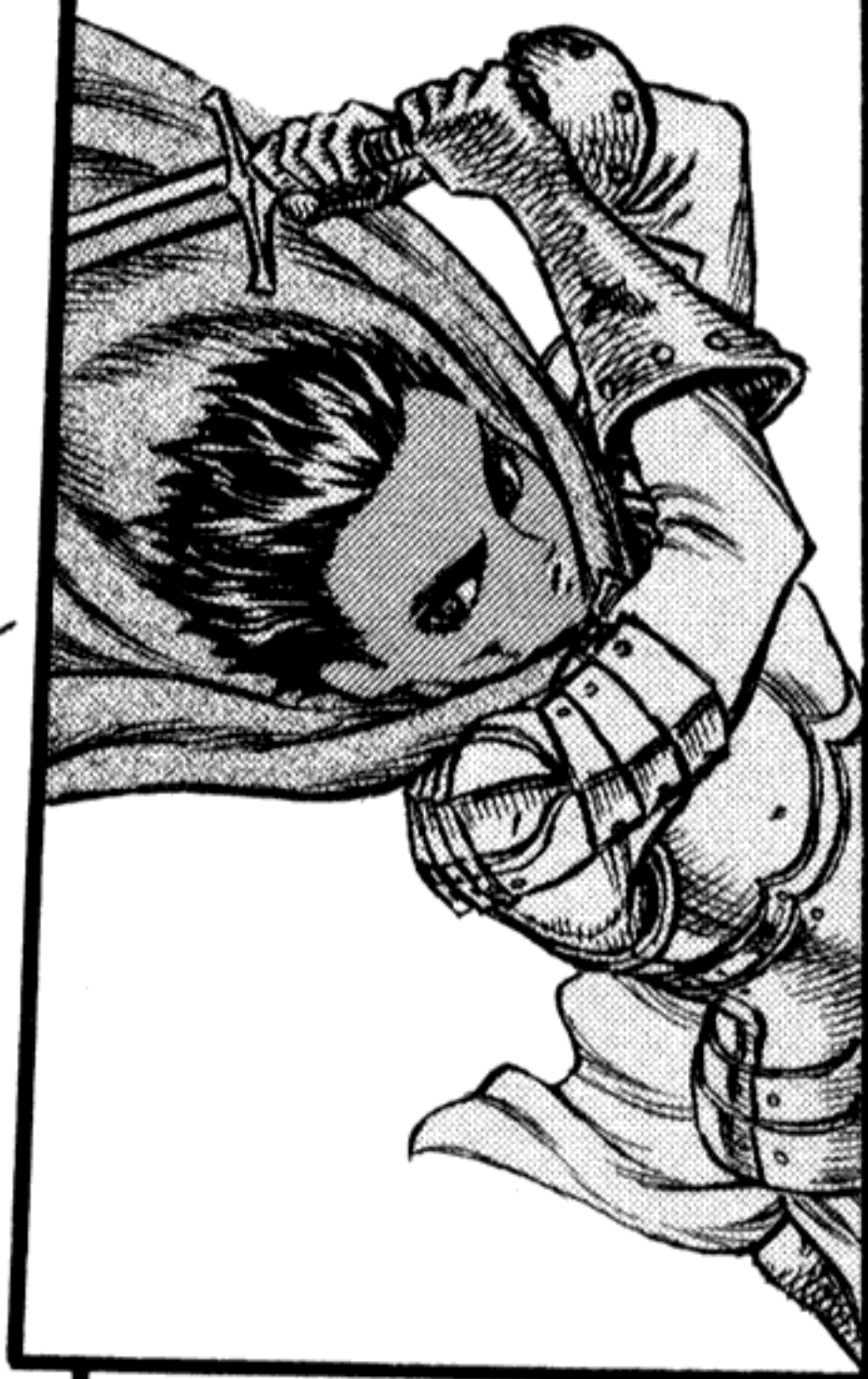


OH,
NO!



WHAAAT
?!

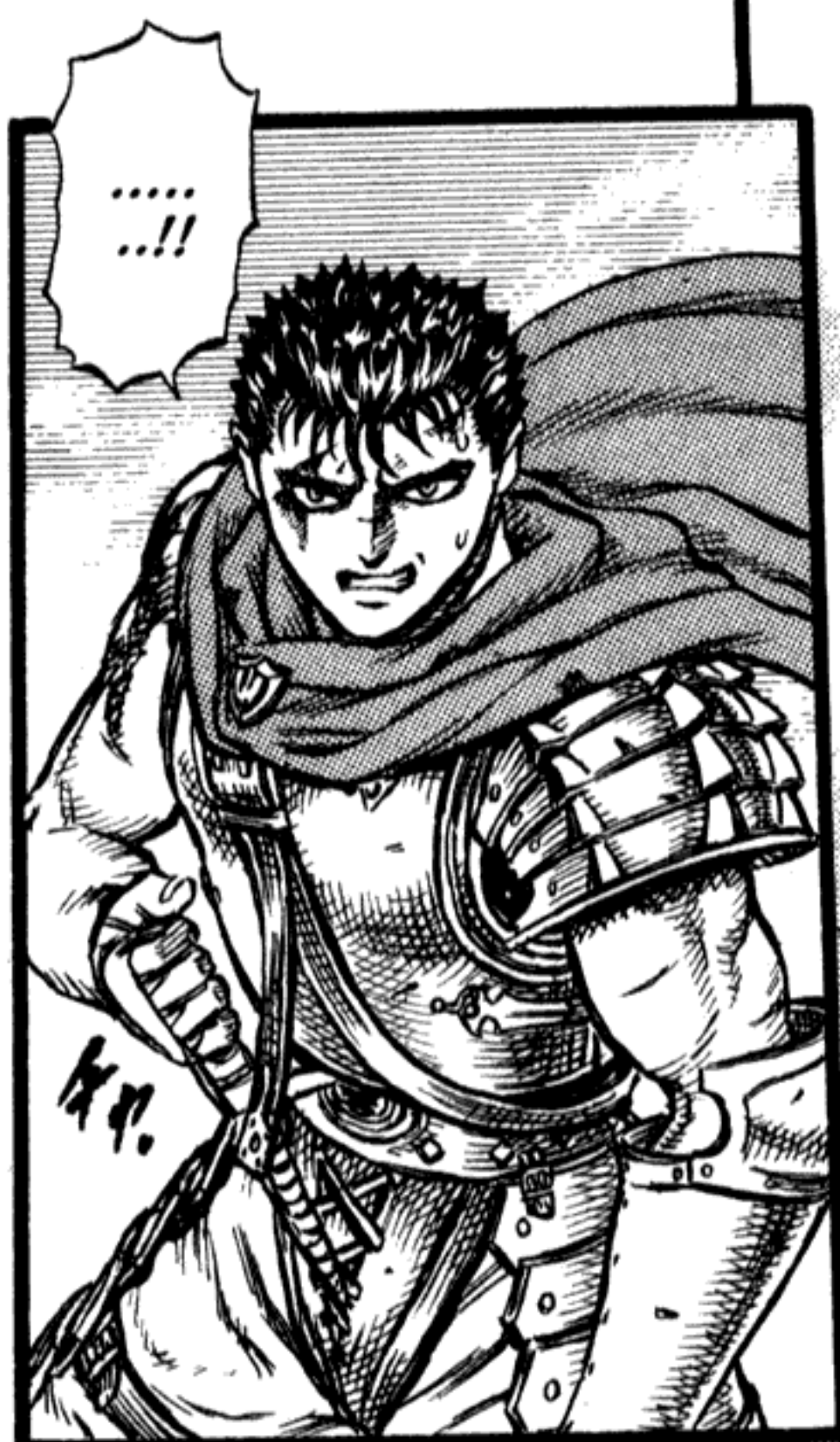




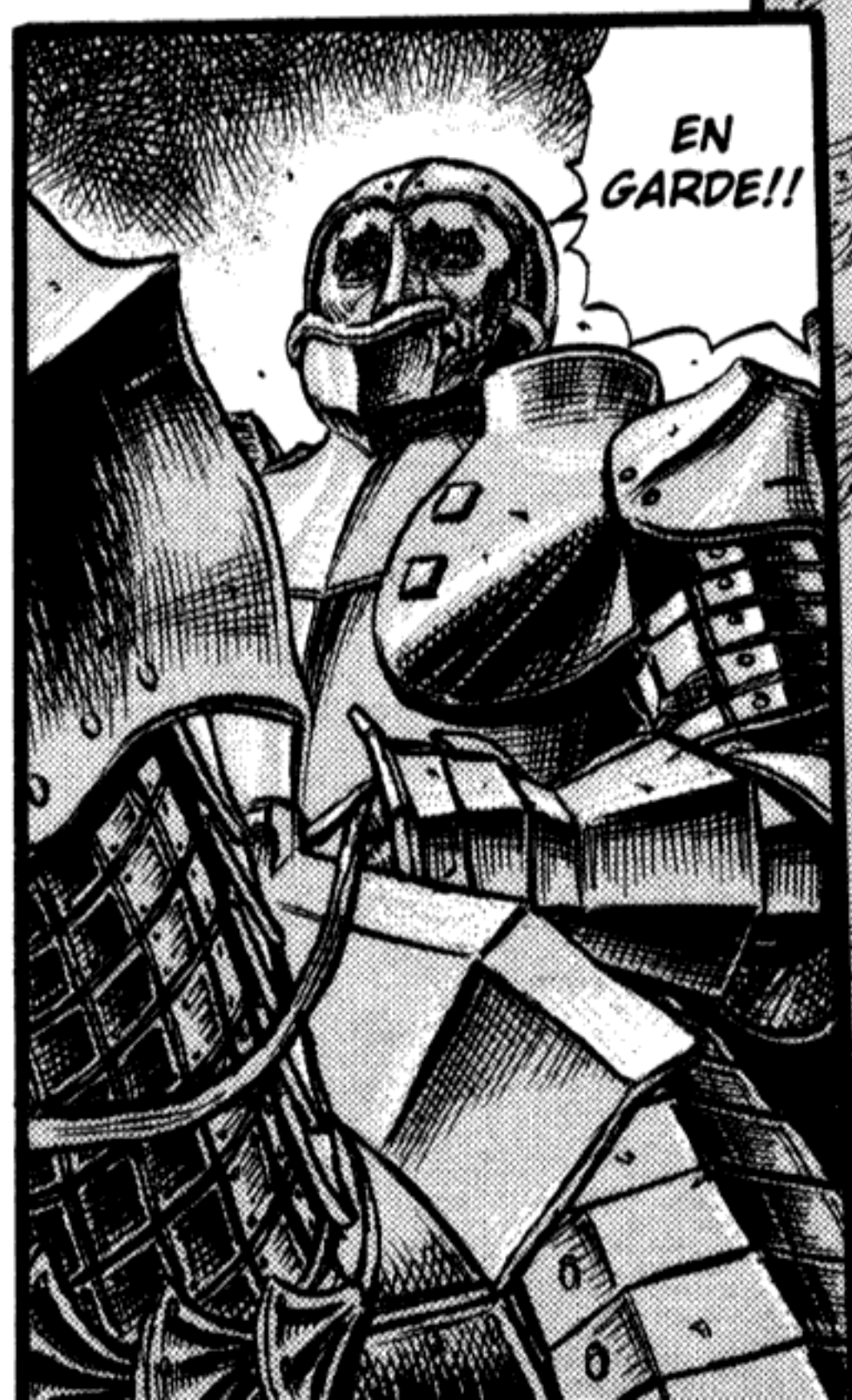


THE REST ARE
LITTLE FISH!!
ROUT THEM!!

ALRIGHT!!

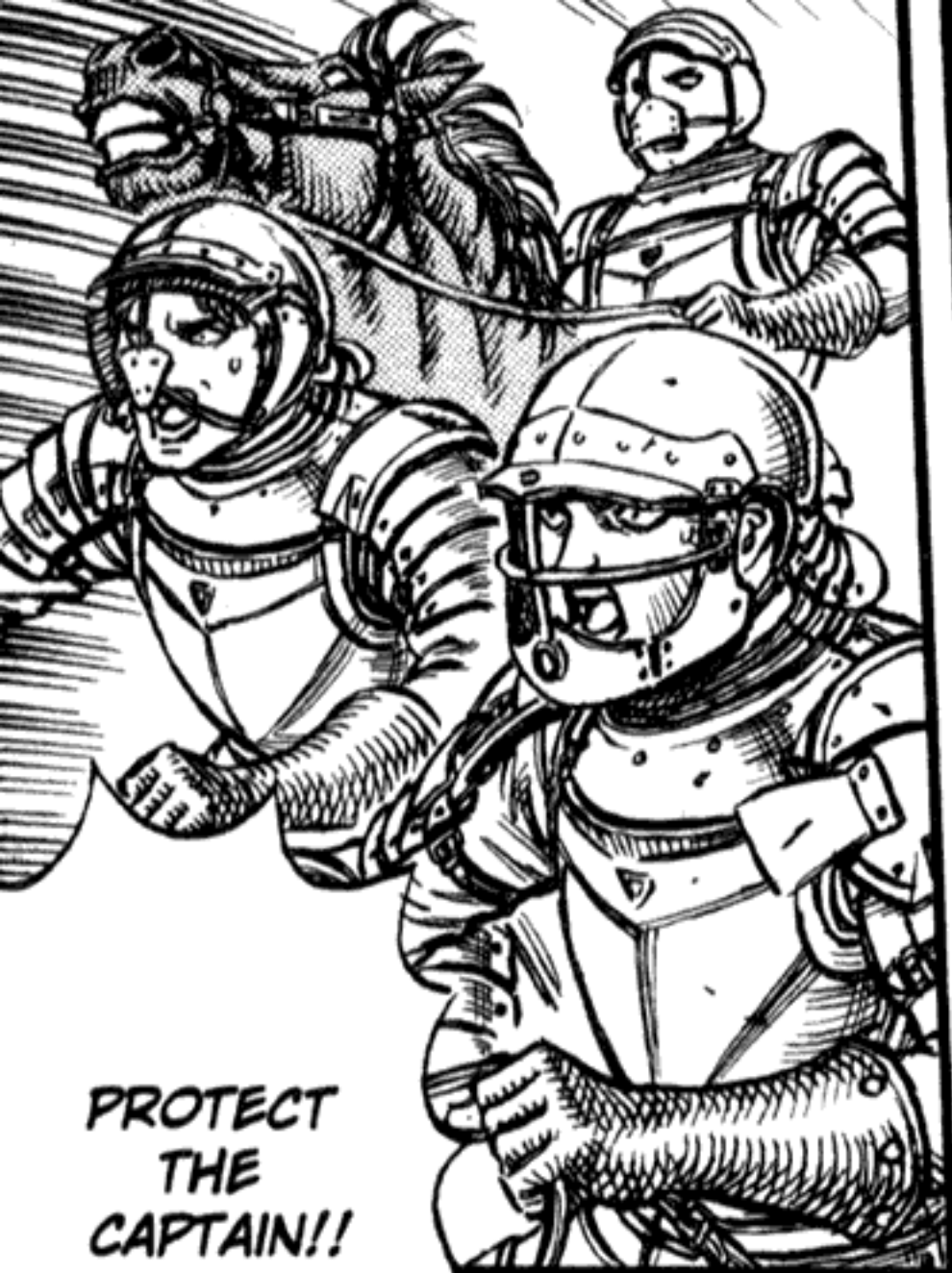


....
...!!



EN
GARDE!!





PROTECT
THE
CAPTAIN!!



THERE'S
NOTHIN'
YOU
CAN DO,
IDIOTS!!

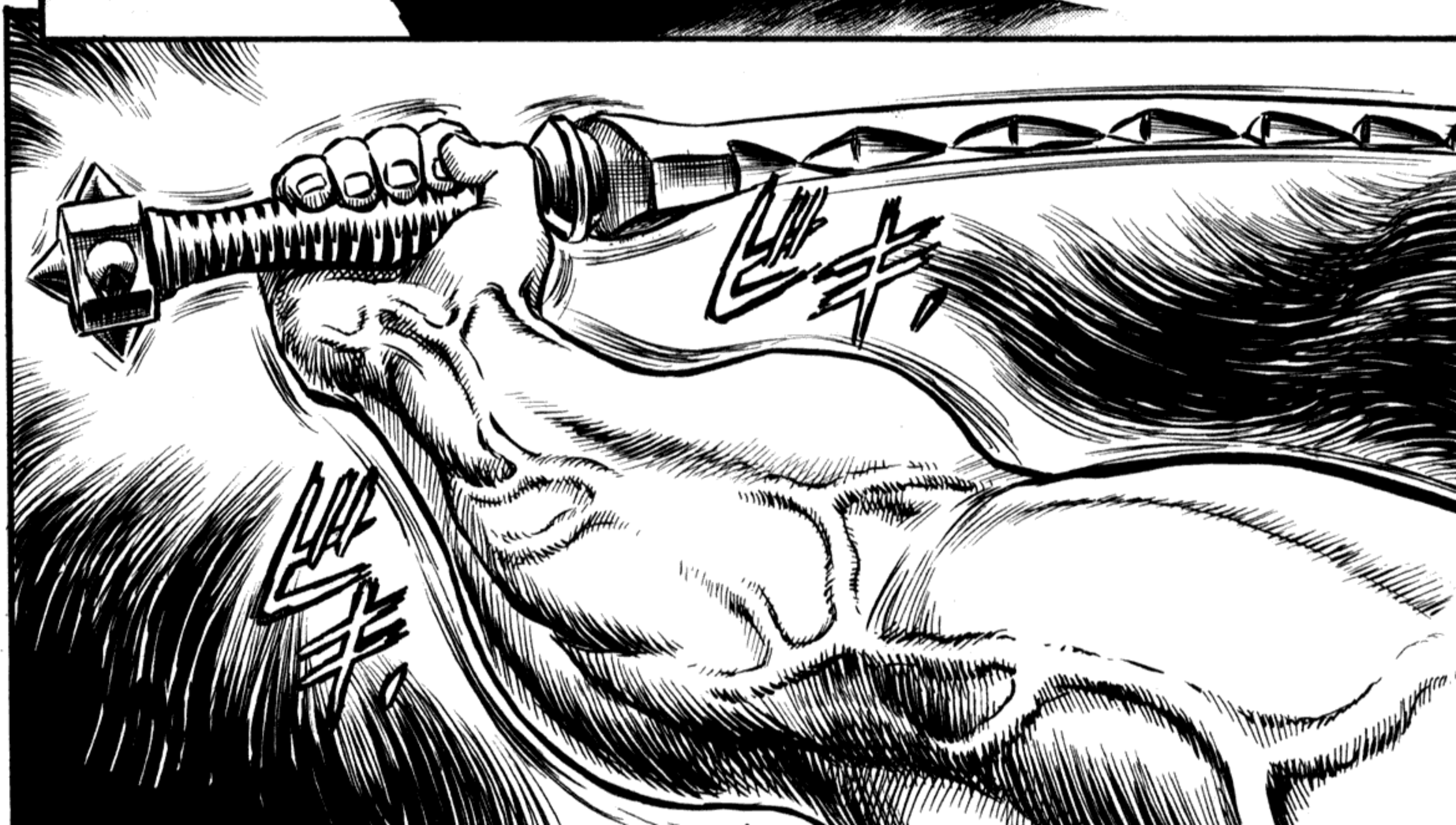
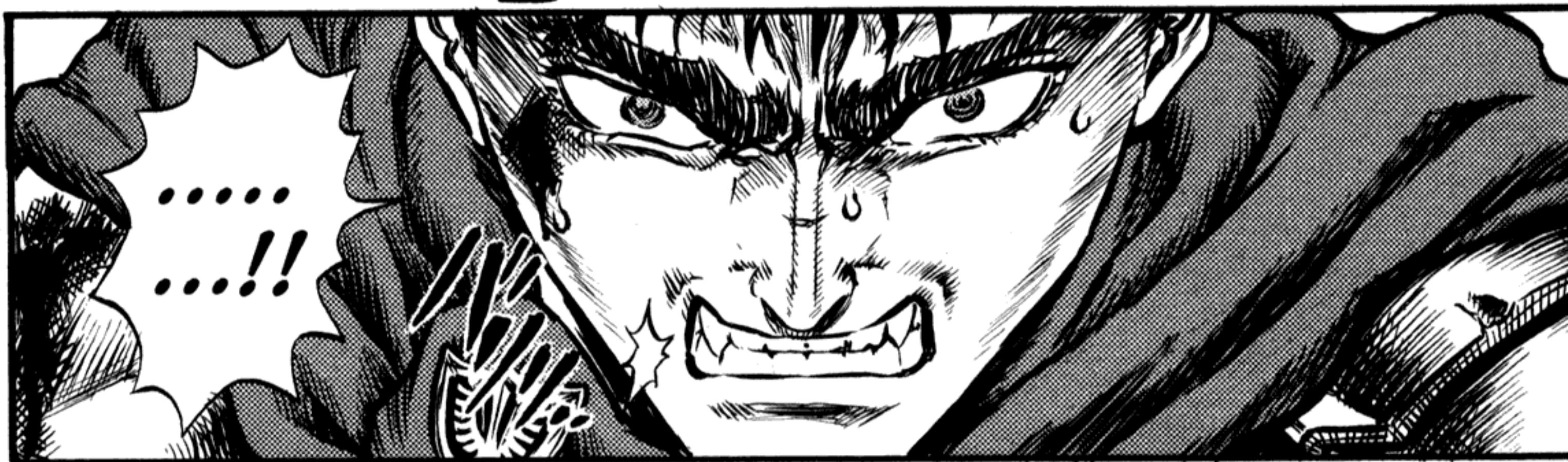
GET
OUTTA
THERE!!

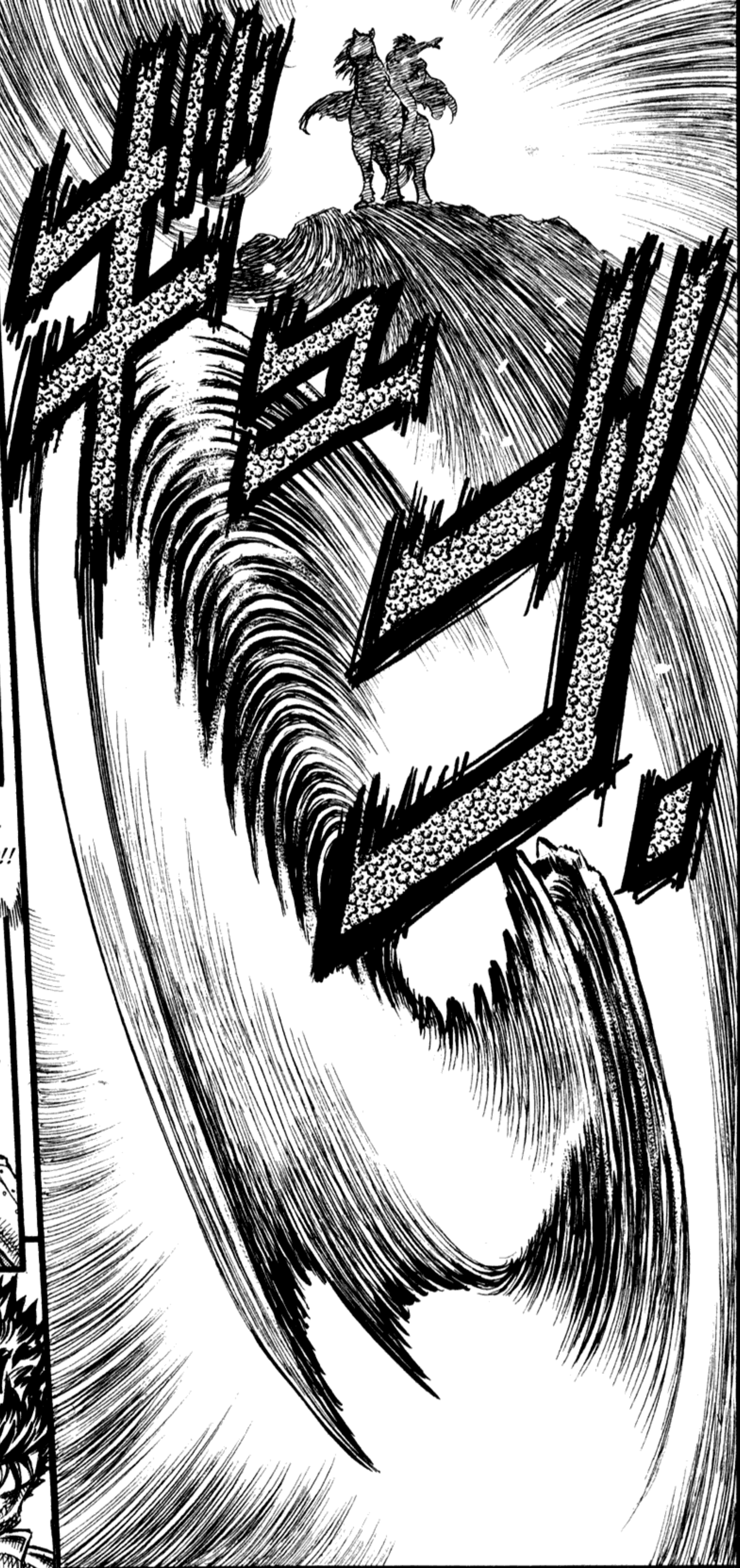


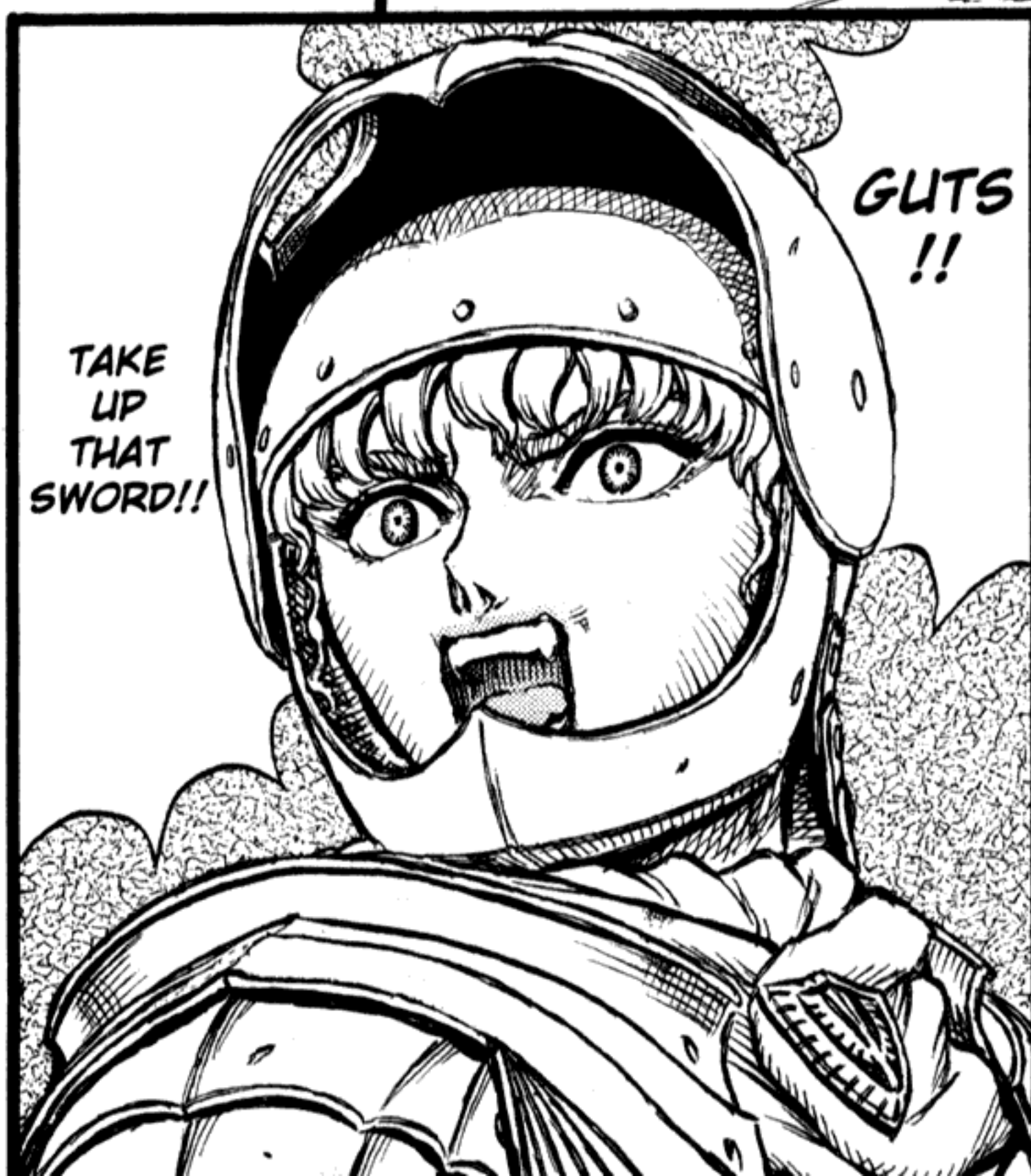
NLI-
SAN-
CES!!





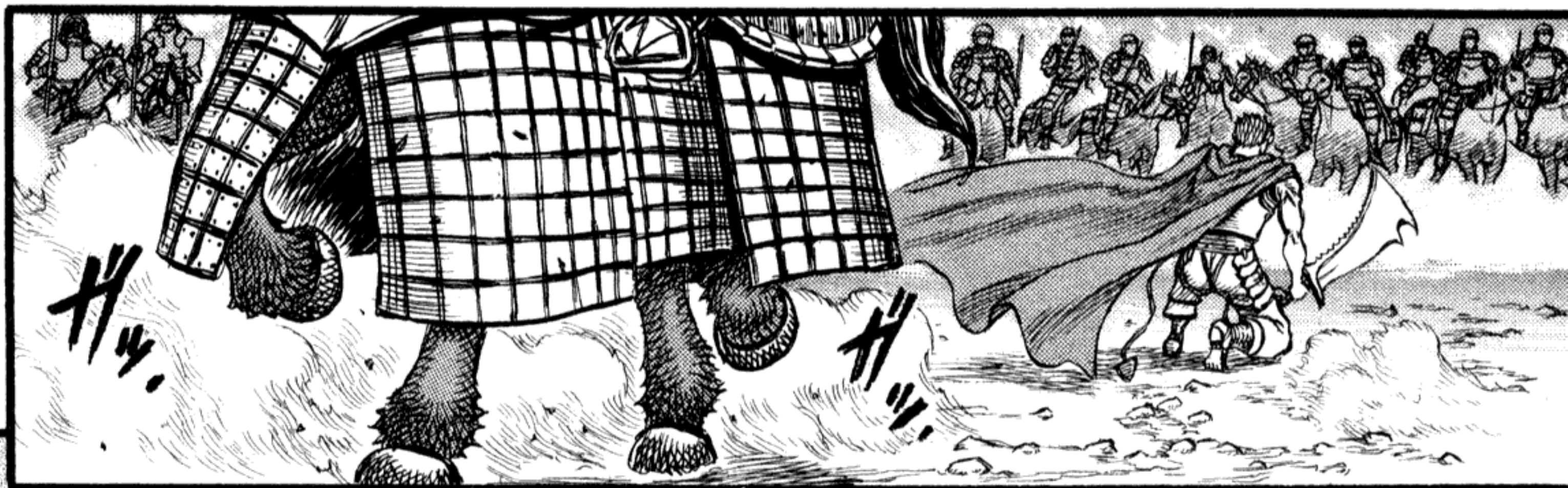
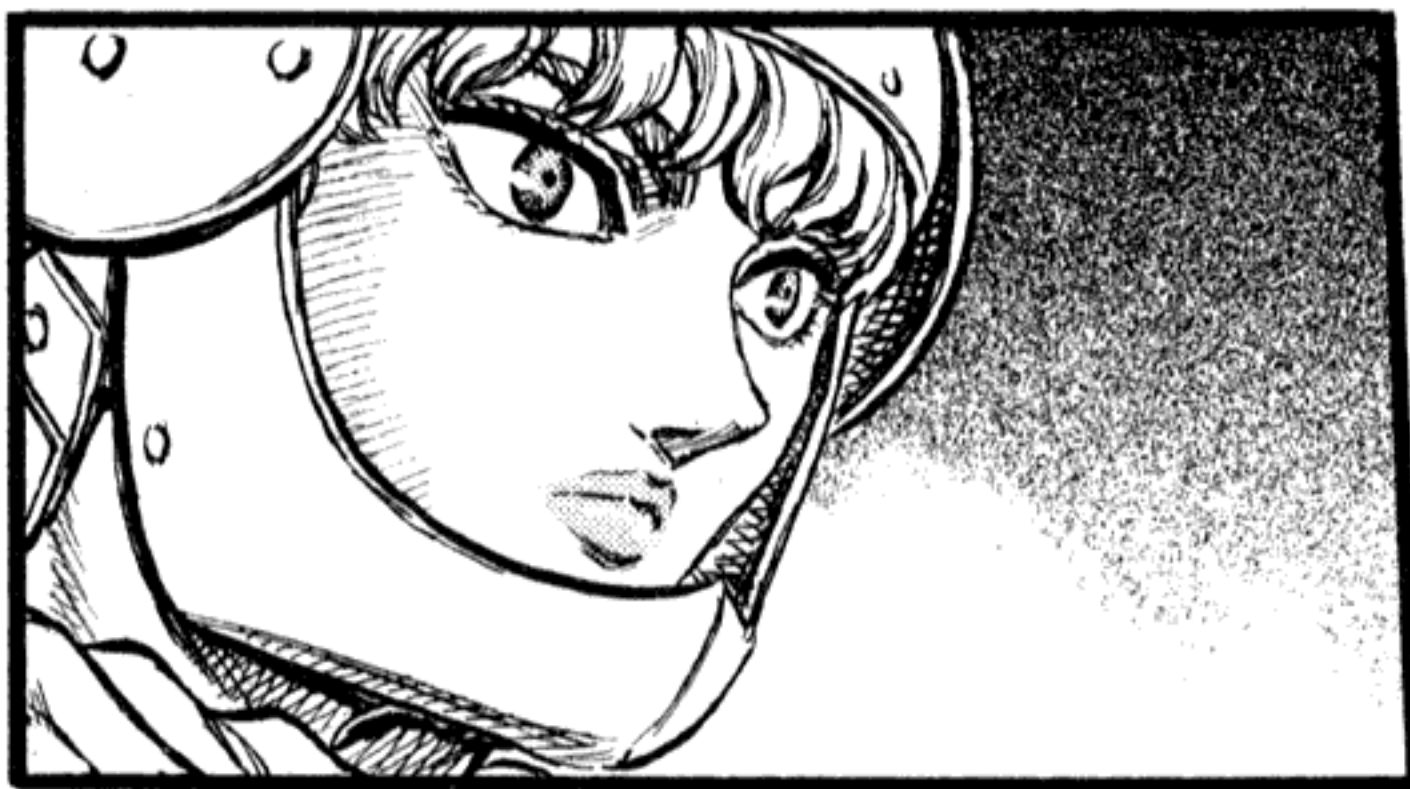
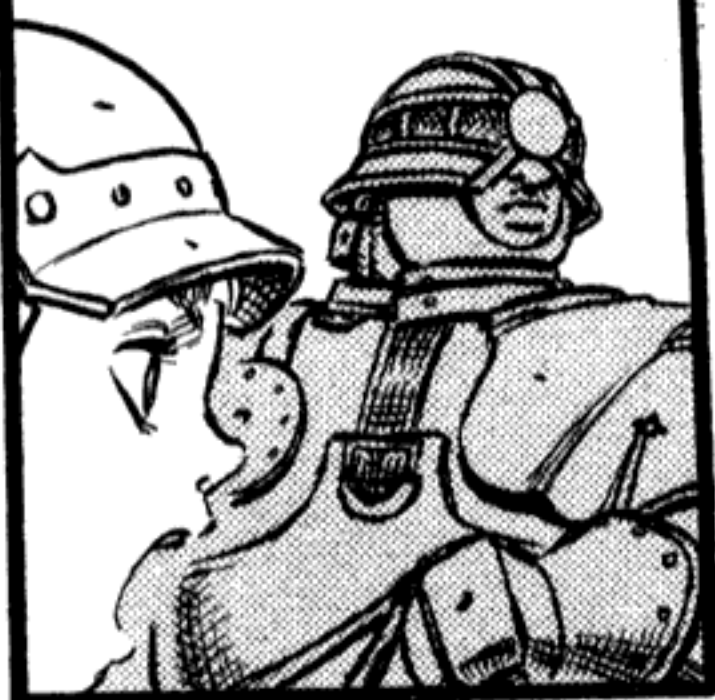






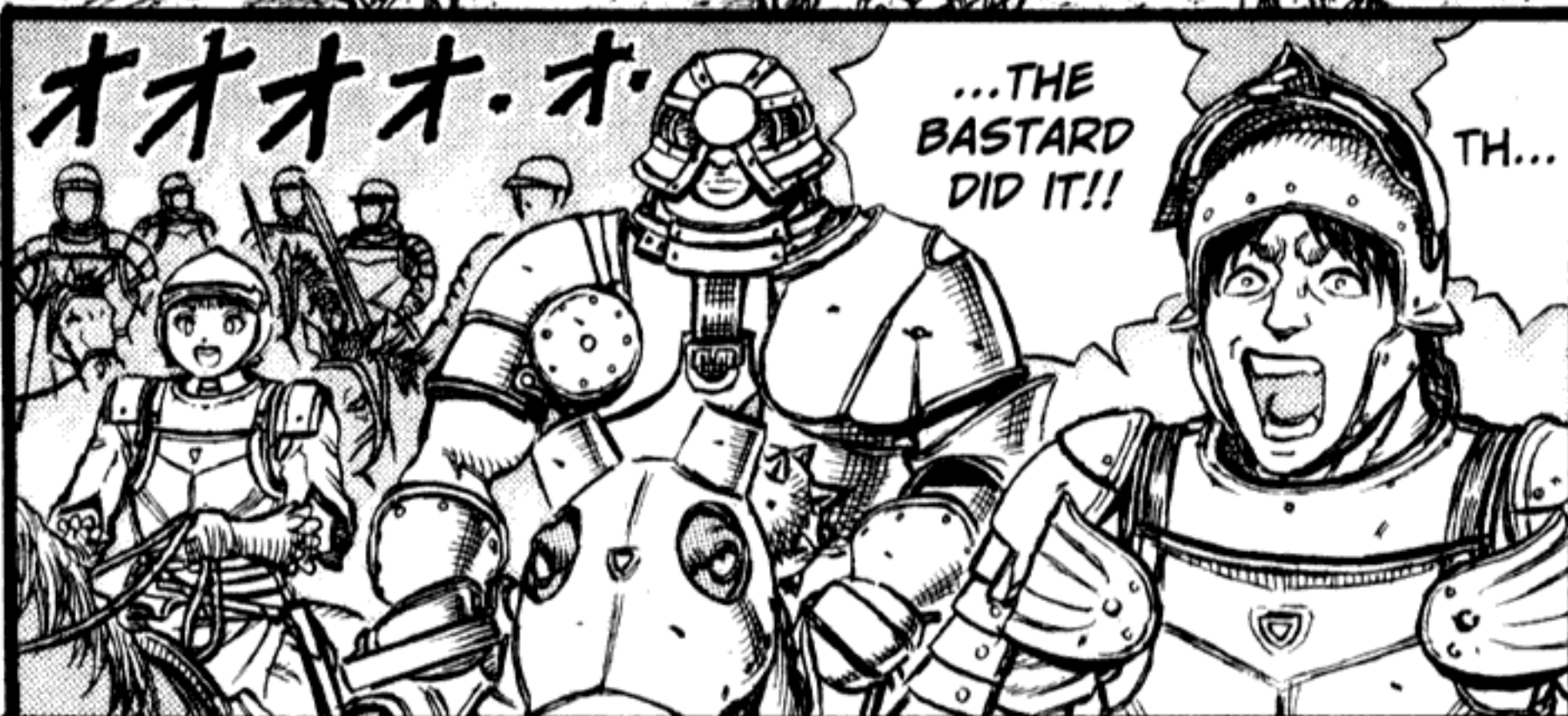








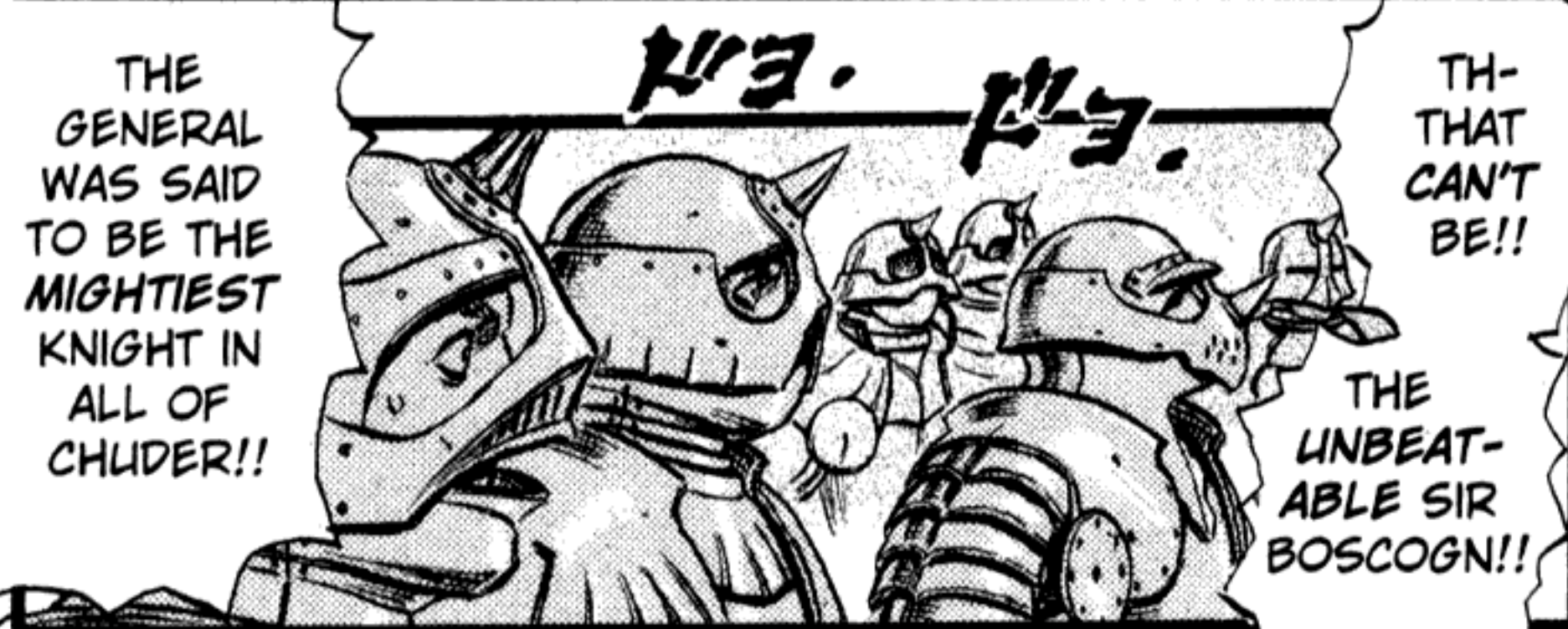
**AGHH!!
GOVERNOR,
LOOK!!**



オオオオ.オ.

...THE
BASTARD
DID IT!!

TH...



THE
GENERAL
WAS SAID
TO BE THE
MIGHTIEST
KNIGHT IN
ALL OF
CHLUDER!!

何. 何.

TH-
THAT
CAN'T
BE!!

THE
UNBEAT-
ABLE SIR
BOSCOGN!!



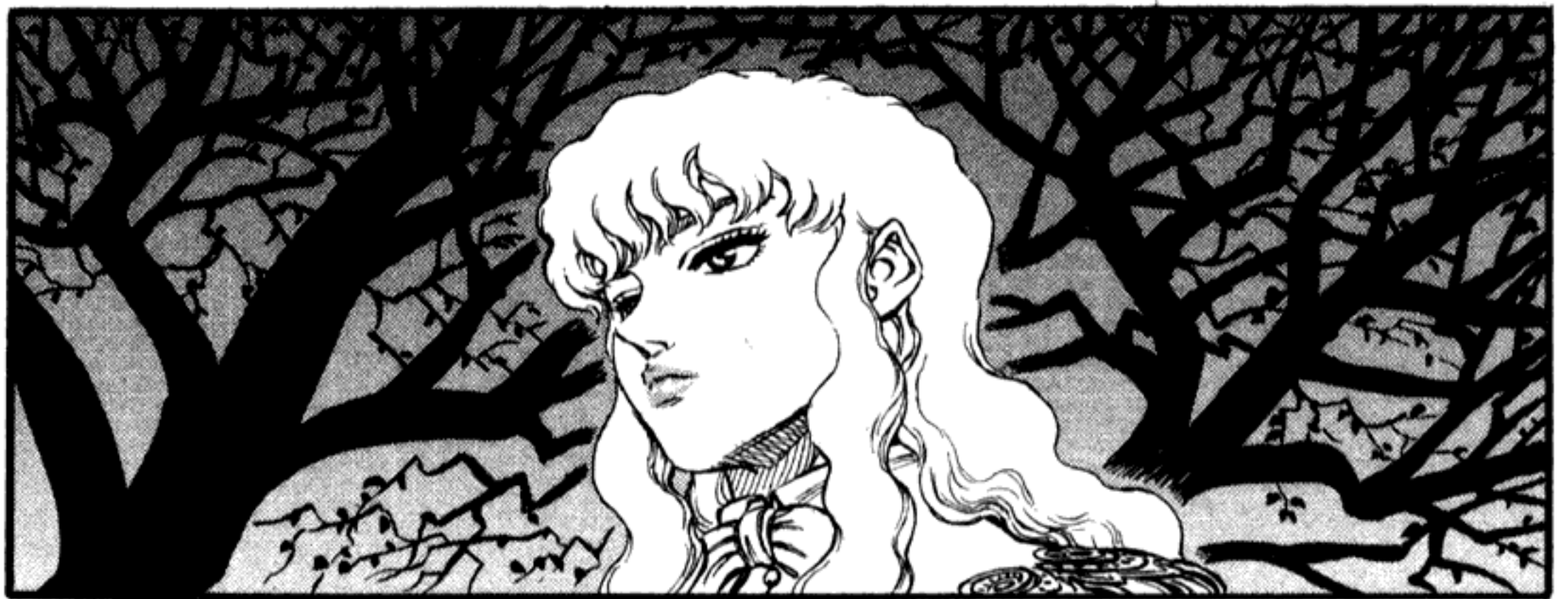
**YOU FOOLS!!
THE GENERAL'S DEFEAT
DOESN'T AFFECT OUR
MILITARY SUPERIORITY!!
WHY ARE YOU
FALTERING?!**

**GRRRR
.....!!**

**THAT
USELESS
BOSCOGN!!**

AT
WHAT?!







IS...

...IS
THAT?!



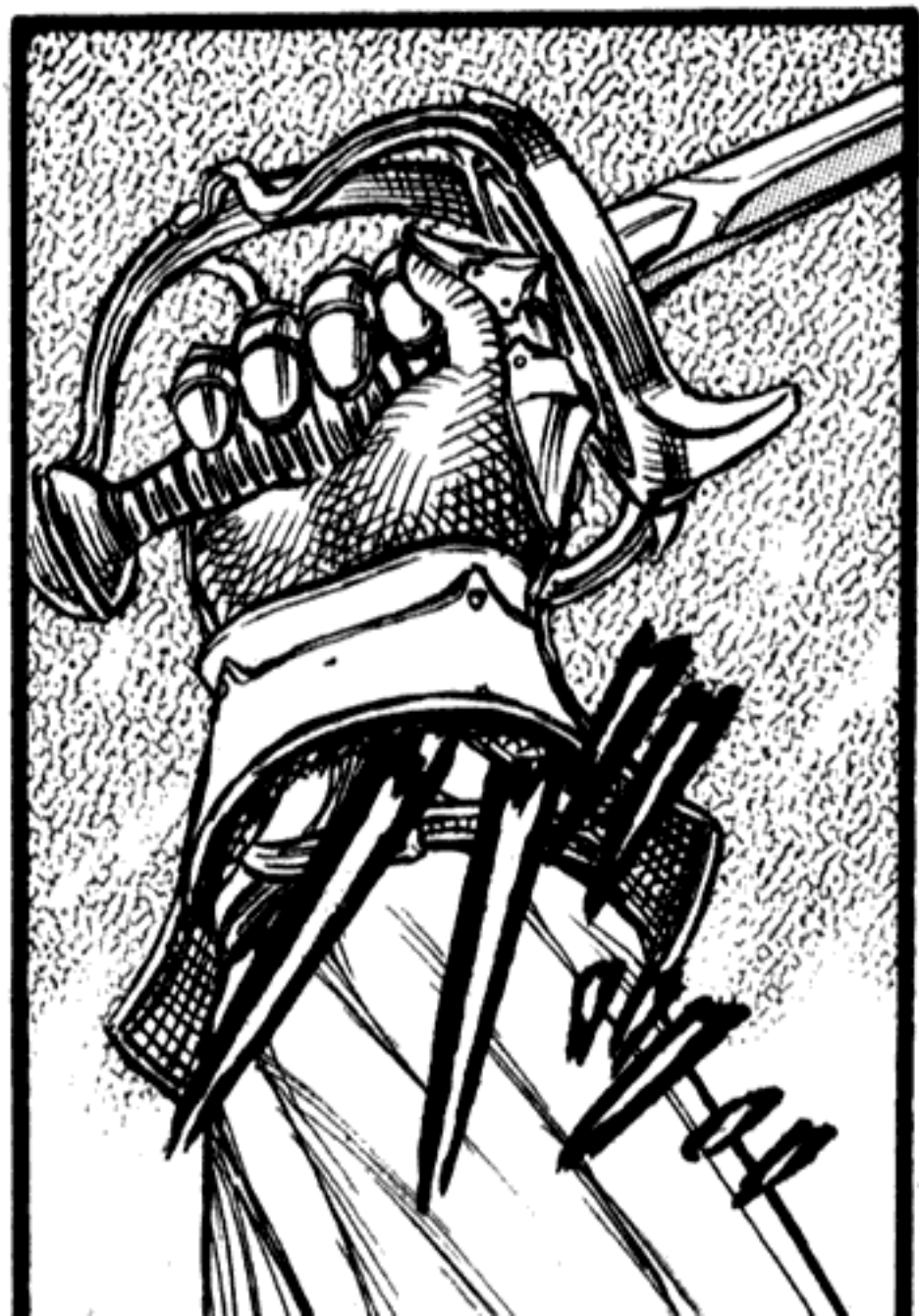
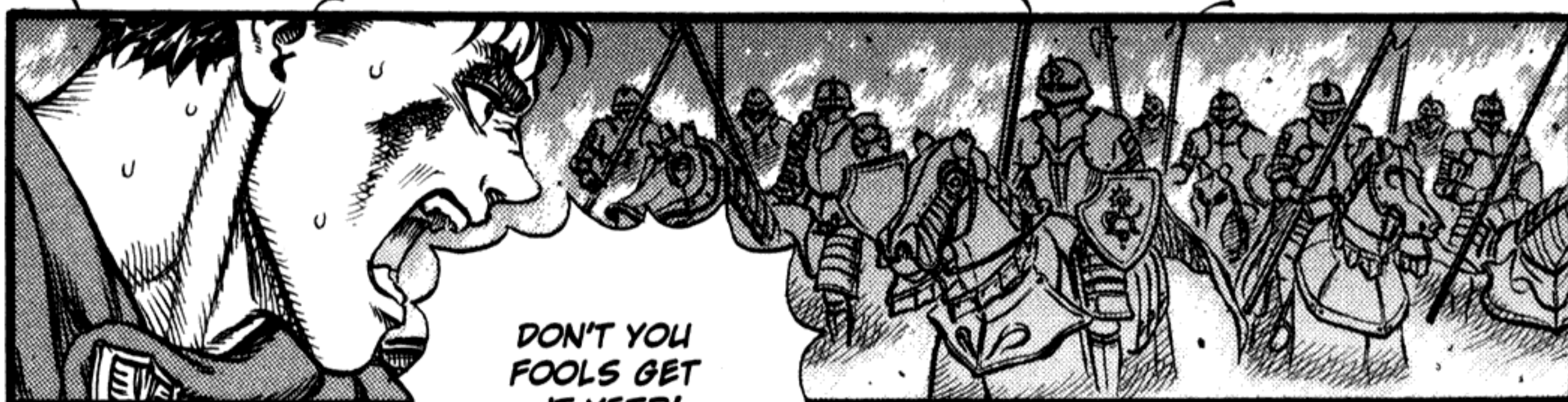
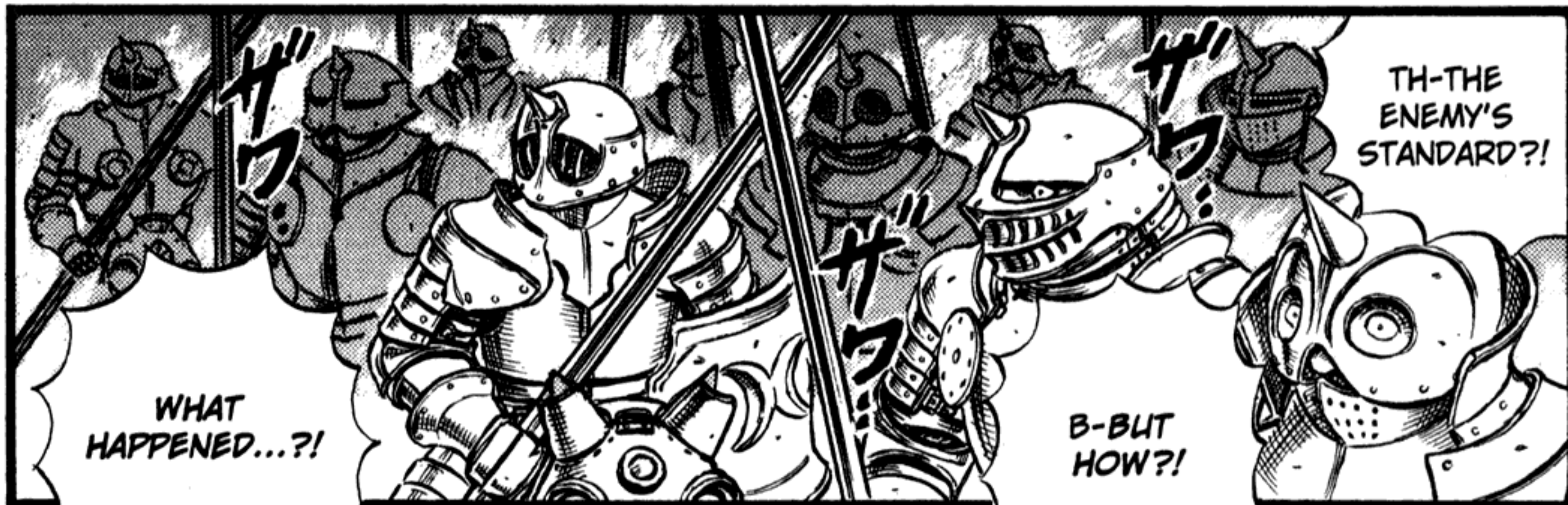
IT
CAN'T
BE...!!

カエルの足



THE BATTLE FOR GOLDBREY CHAPTER 6

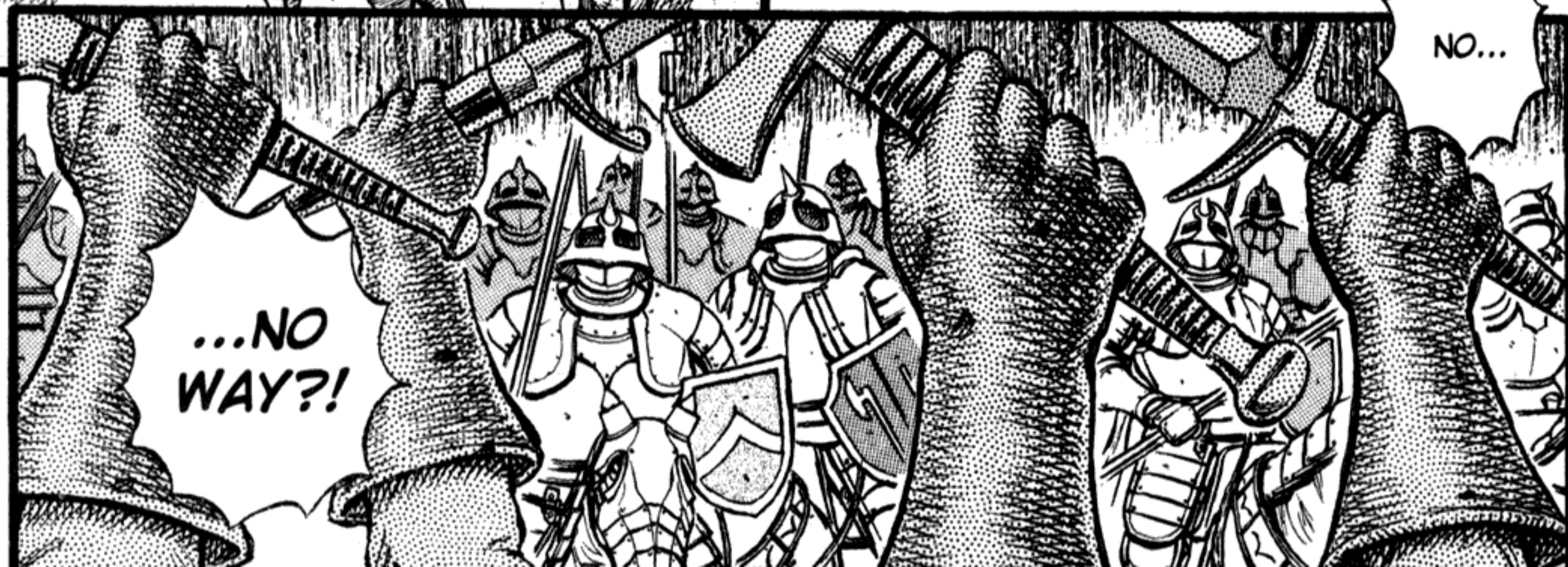
THE BATTLE FOR GOLDBREY CHAPTER 6
金ブレイ攻略戦(6)





CRY
OUT!!

CRY FOR
VICTORY!!



NO...

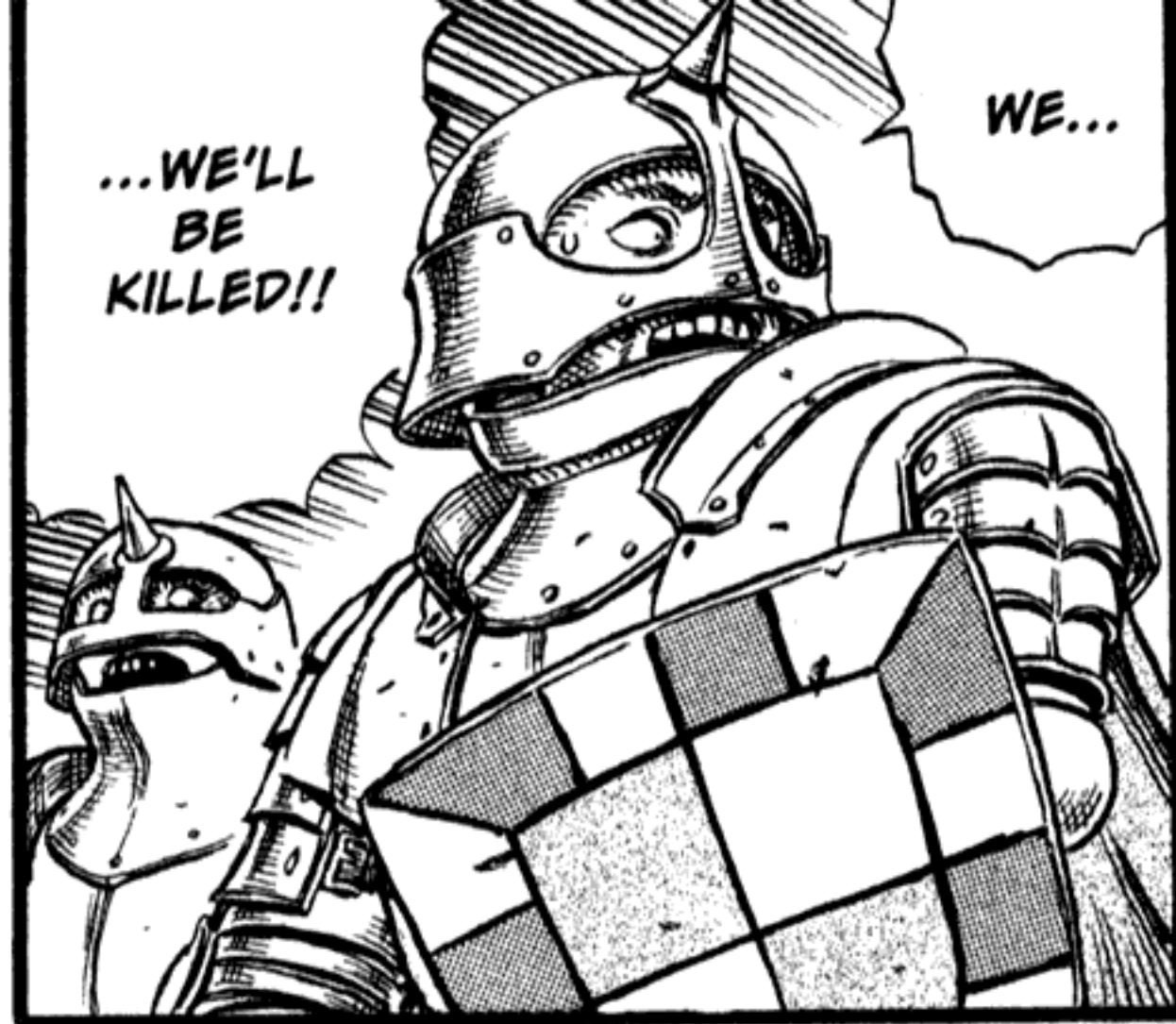
...NO
WAY?!



COMMENCE
HUNTING
DOWN
THE
ENEMY
REMNANTS!!

IF
THEY
FLEE
THIS
PLACE,
WE'LL
ENOUGH!!

SLAUGHTER
EVERY
LAST
ONE WHO
OFFERS
OPPOSITION!!



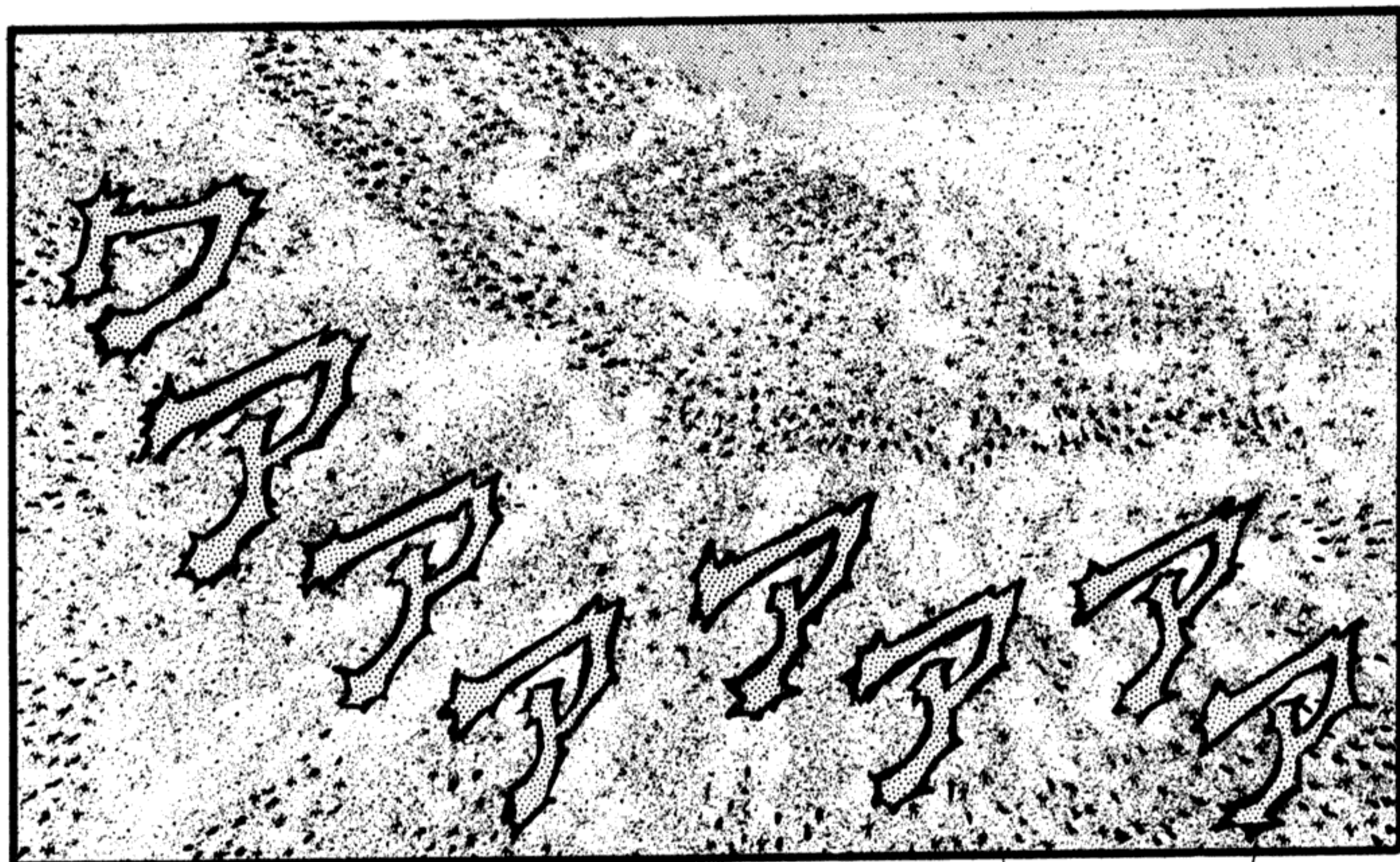
...WE'LL
BE
KILLED!!

WE...



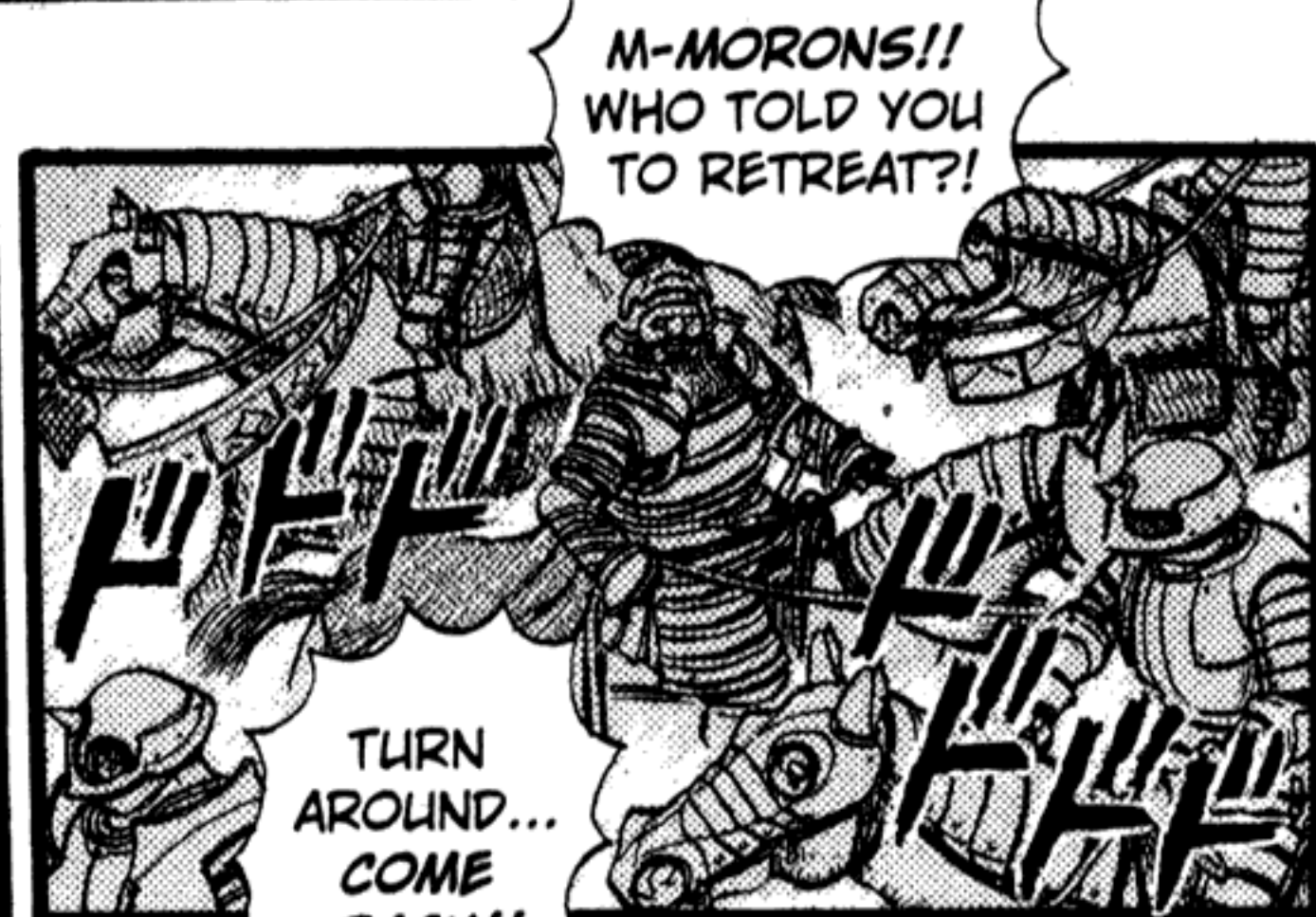
AT THIS...
AT THIS
RATE...

IT'S
NO
USE.



GWAAH
!!

OHH!!



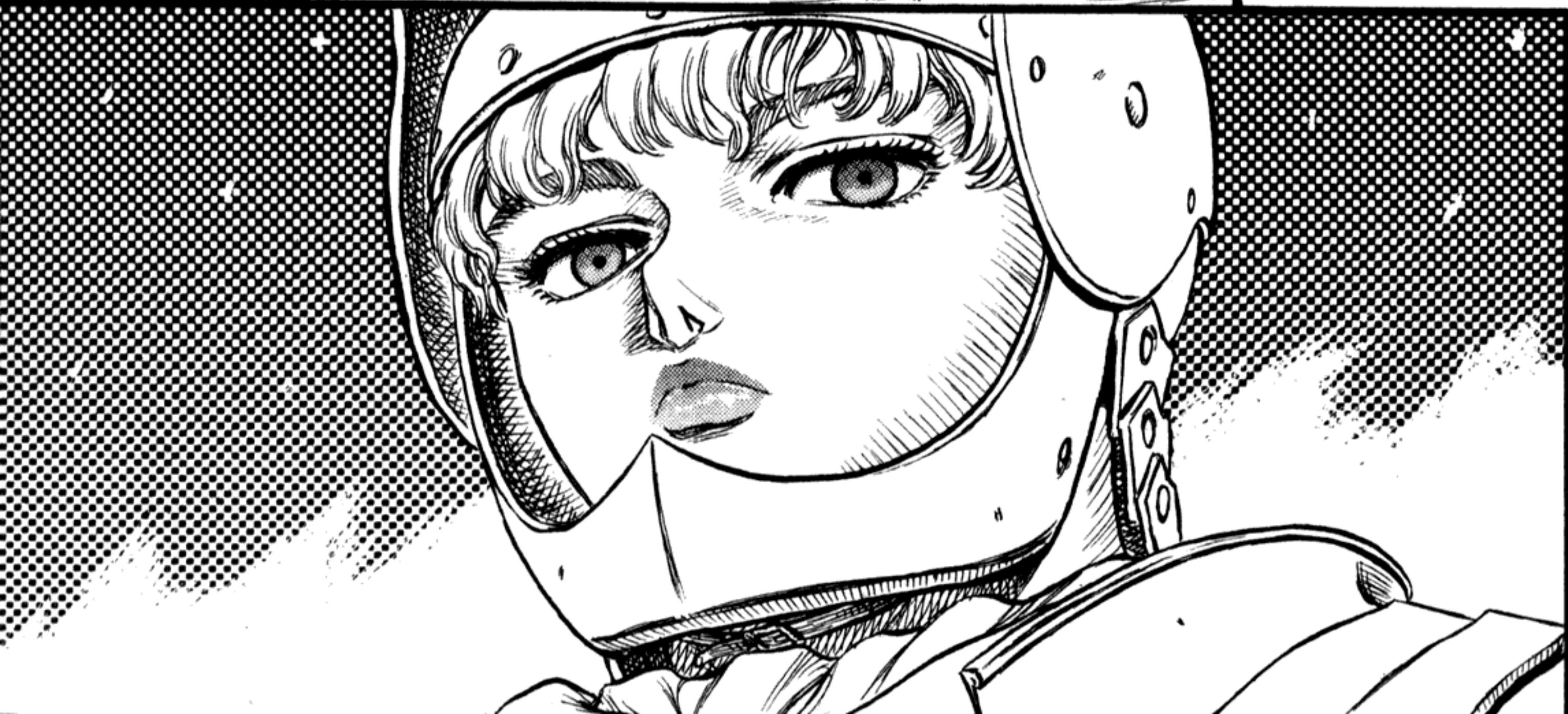
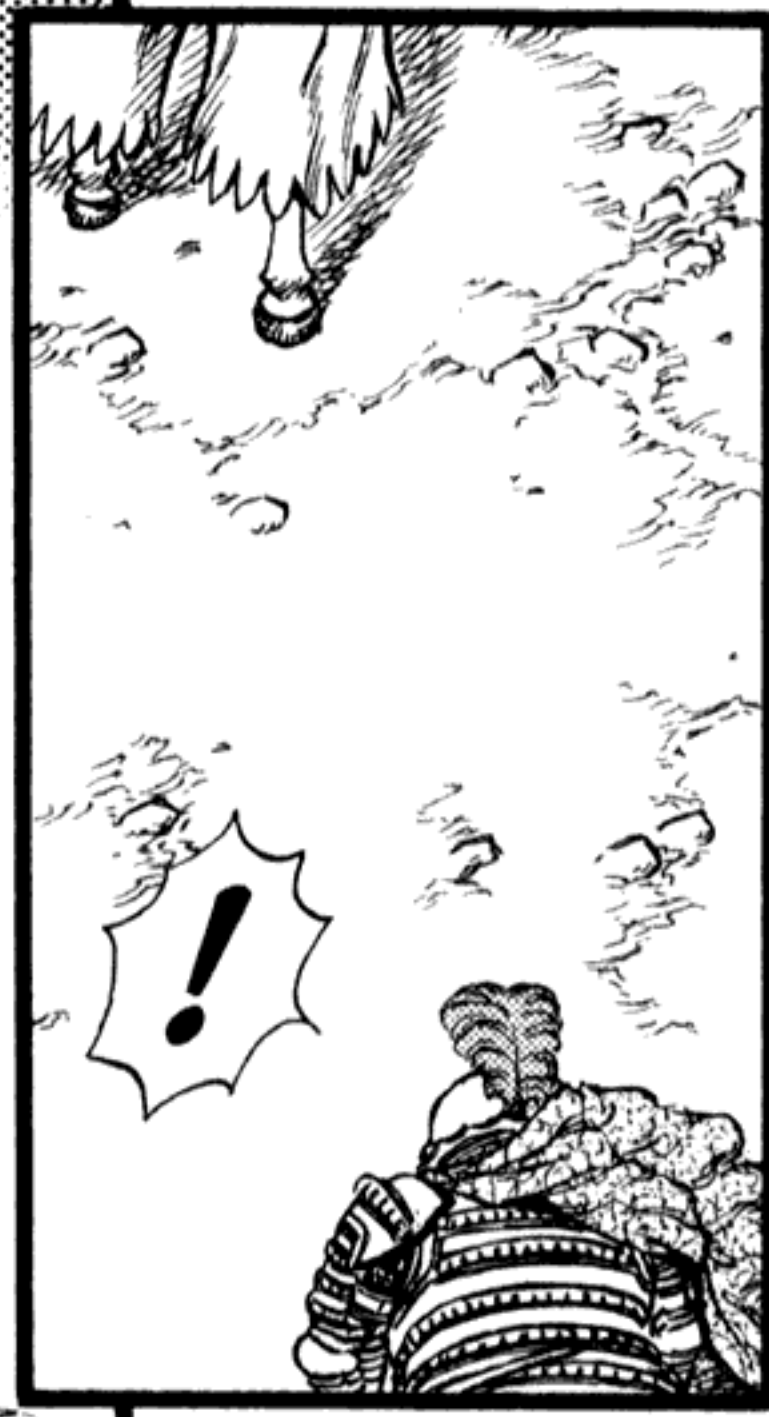
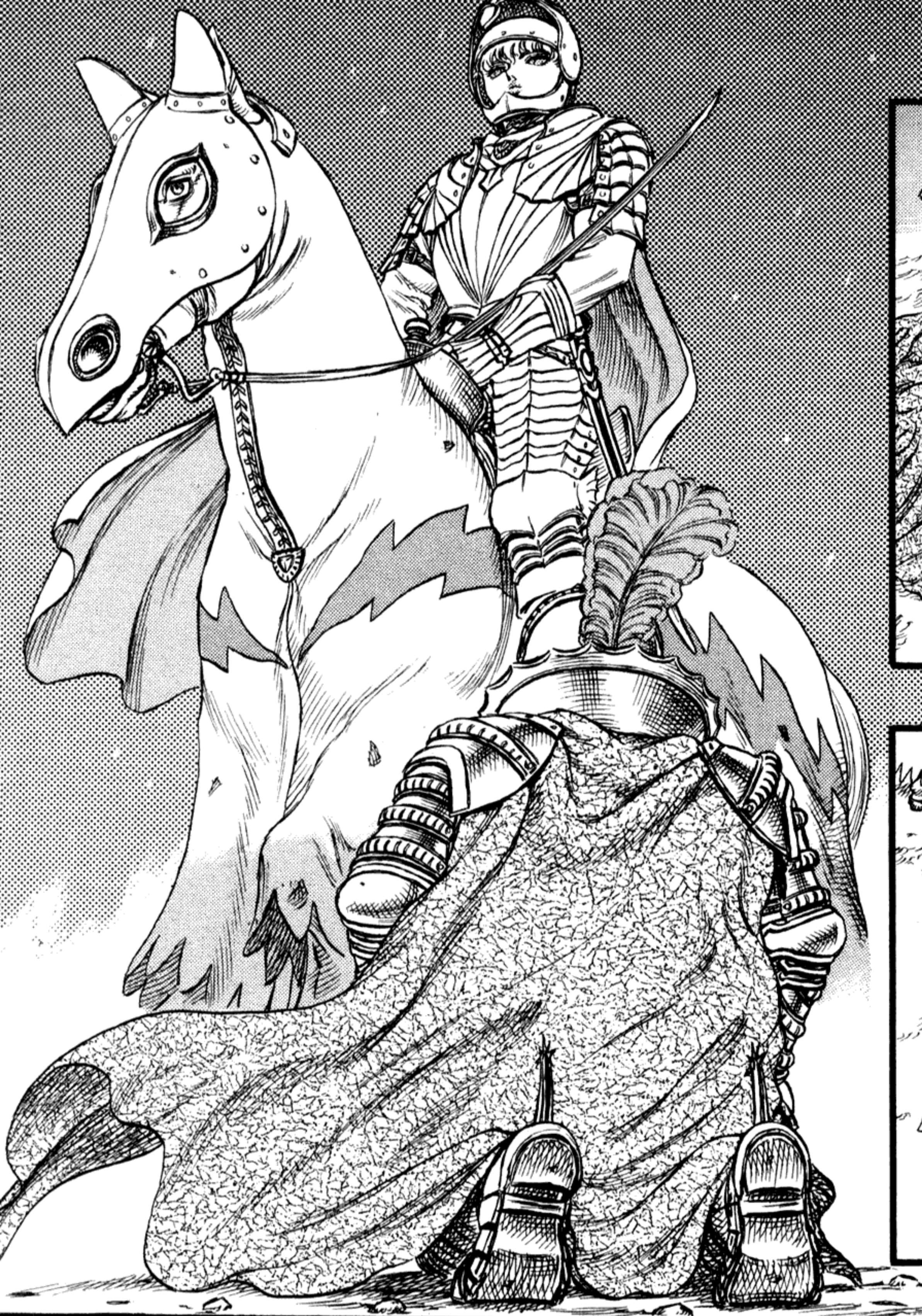
M-MORONS!!
WHO TOLD YOU
TO RETREAT?!

TURN
AROUND...
COME
BACK!!



I'M
STILL
HERE!!

I-I'M
YOUR
SUPREME
COMMAND-
ER!!





HAHA

AH...

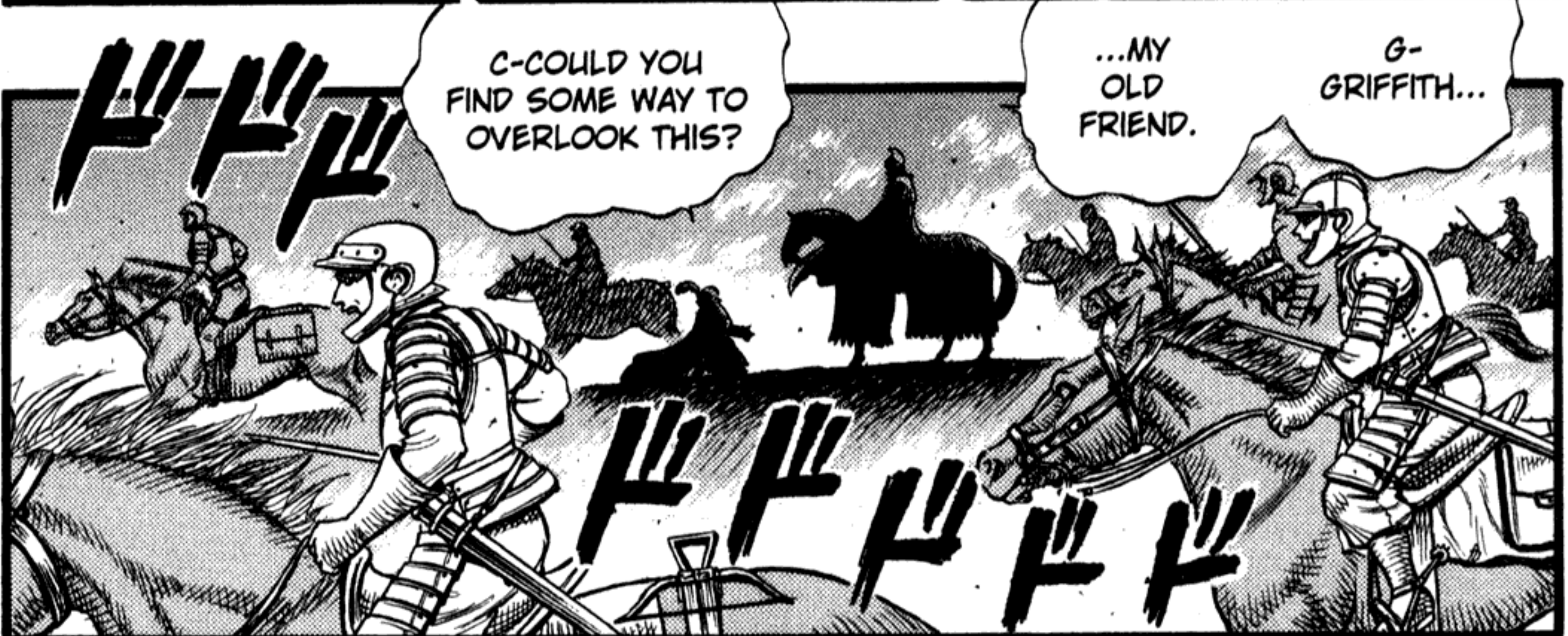


IT'S BEEN
QUITE SOME
TIME, LORD
GENNON.



...
GRIFFITH
!!

G...



C-COULD YOU
FIND SOME WAY TO
OVERLOOK THIS?

...MY
OLD
FRIEND.

G-
GRIFFITH...



HAVE YOU
ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH
OF MY
PERSONAL
MEANS HAS
BEEN SPENT
THUS...?

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING
FOR YOU EVER SINCE
THAT DAY...AND I'VE
WAITED EAGERLY FOR
THE DAY CHANCE
WOULD ALLOW US
TO MEET AGAIN
LIKE THIS!!

TO BETRAY
THAT OVER THE
UNFORTUNATE
MATTER OF
US BEING
ENEMIES
NOW...



YOU...
YOU AND
I'VE BEEN
GOOD TO
EACH
OTHER...



WON'T YOU GRANT THE WISH OF THE ONE YOU SHARED IT WITH?

SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT NIGHT WE HAD TOGETHER?

IT WAS JUST ONE NIGHT, BUT OH!... HOW I'VE YEARNED FOR THAT AGAIN.

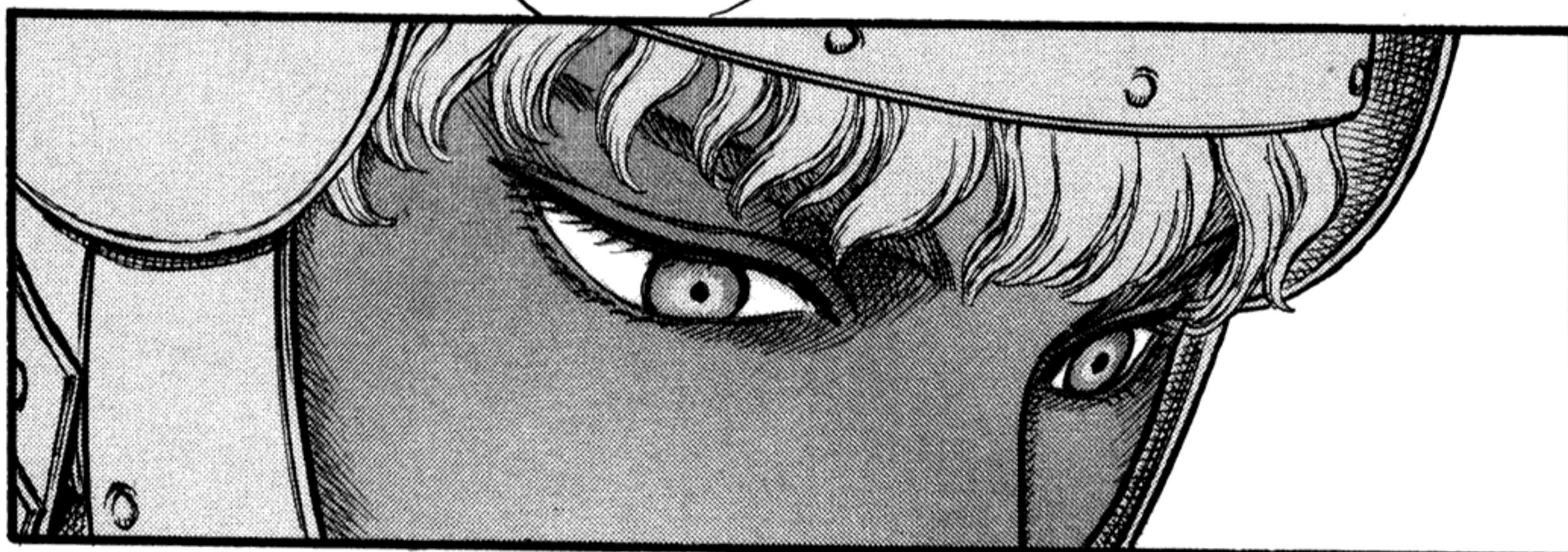


...WOULD BY ANY MEANS EVEN SO MUCH AS WOUND YOU IN THIS BATTLE...

I MADE SURE THAT NONE OF MY MEN ...

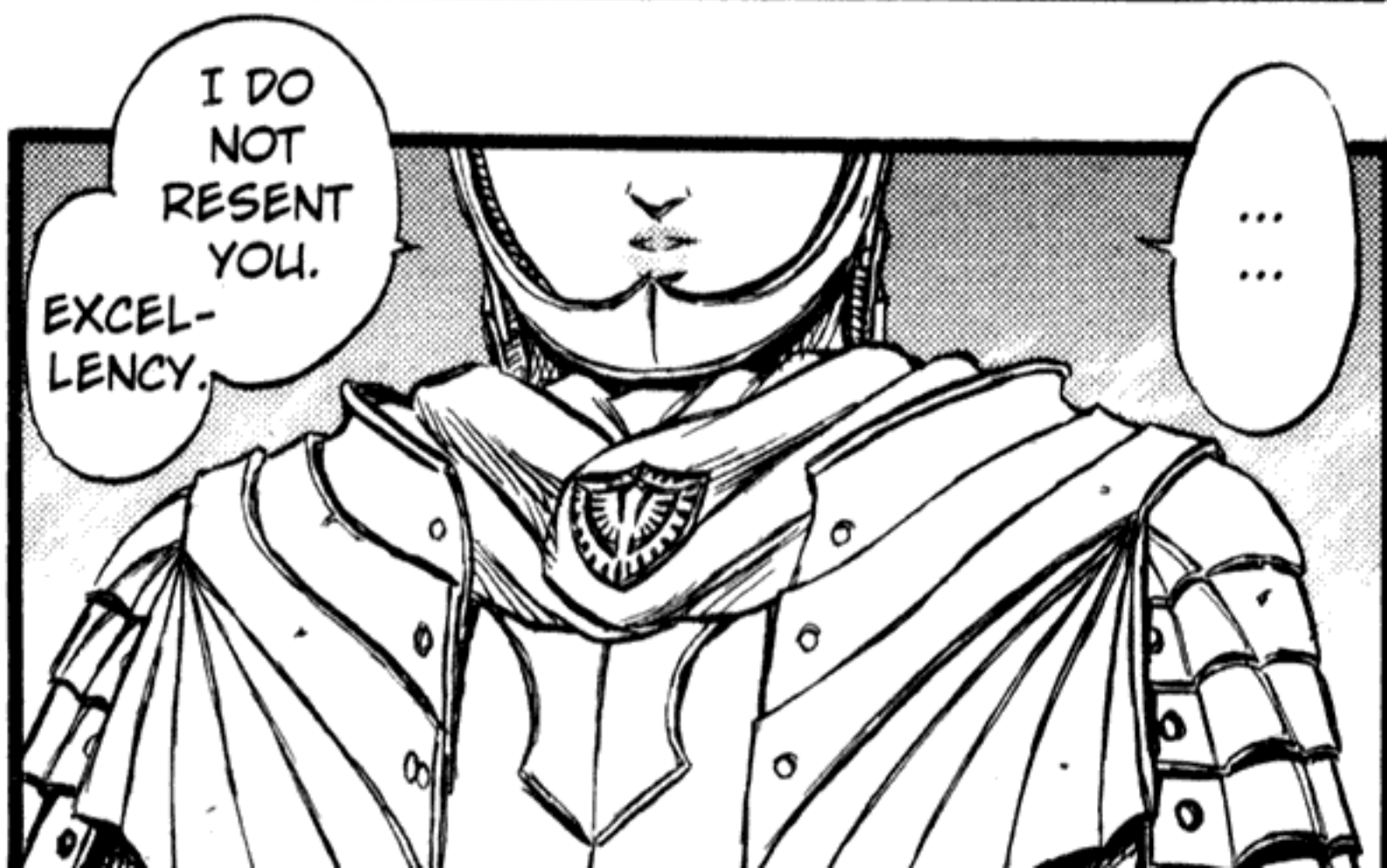


I TOOK GREAT PAINS TO SEE IT THROUGH!



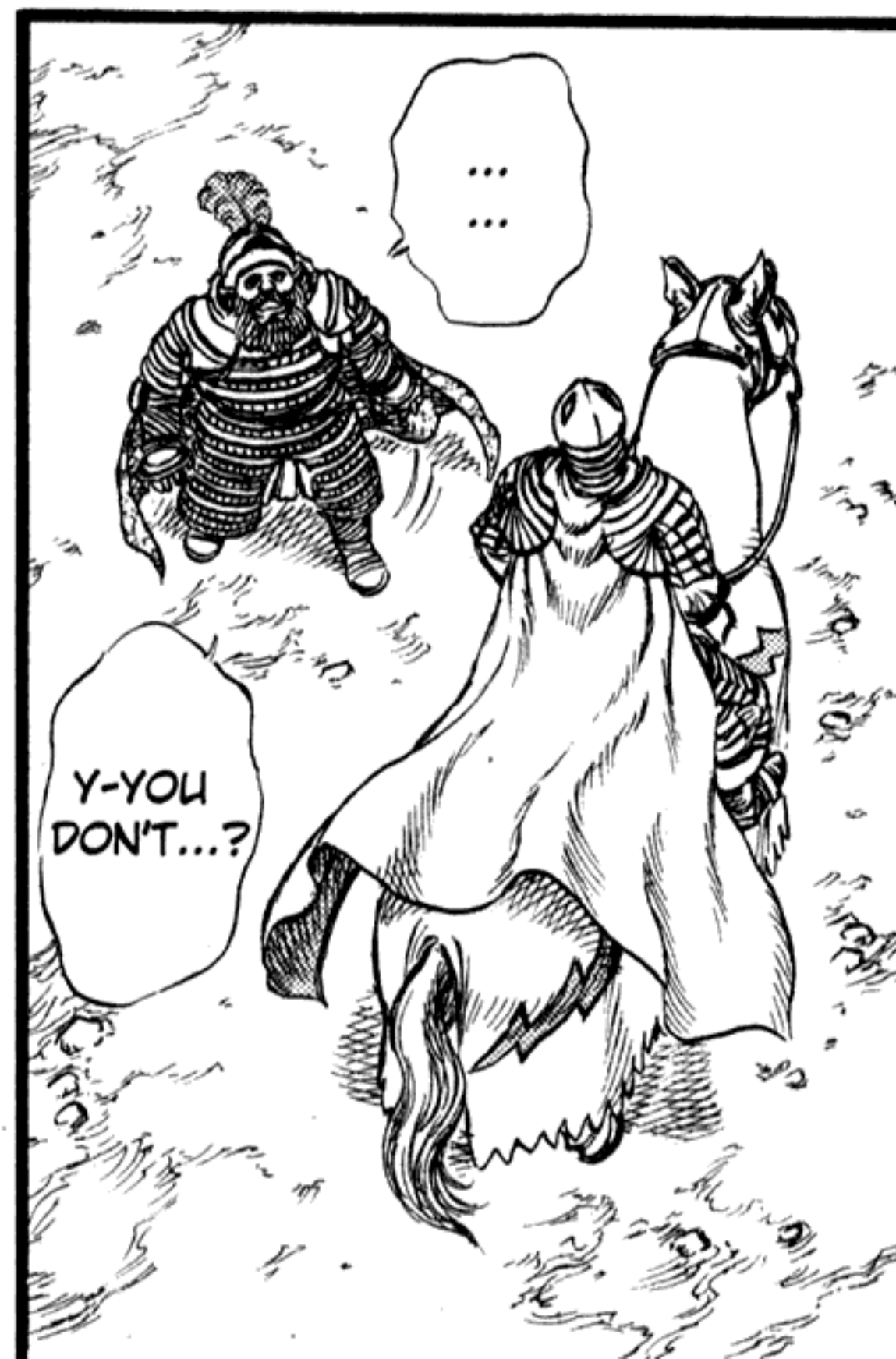
... RESENT ME, DO YOU...?

YOU DON'T ...

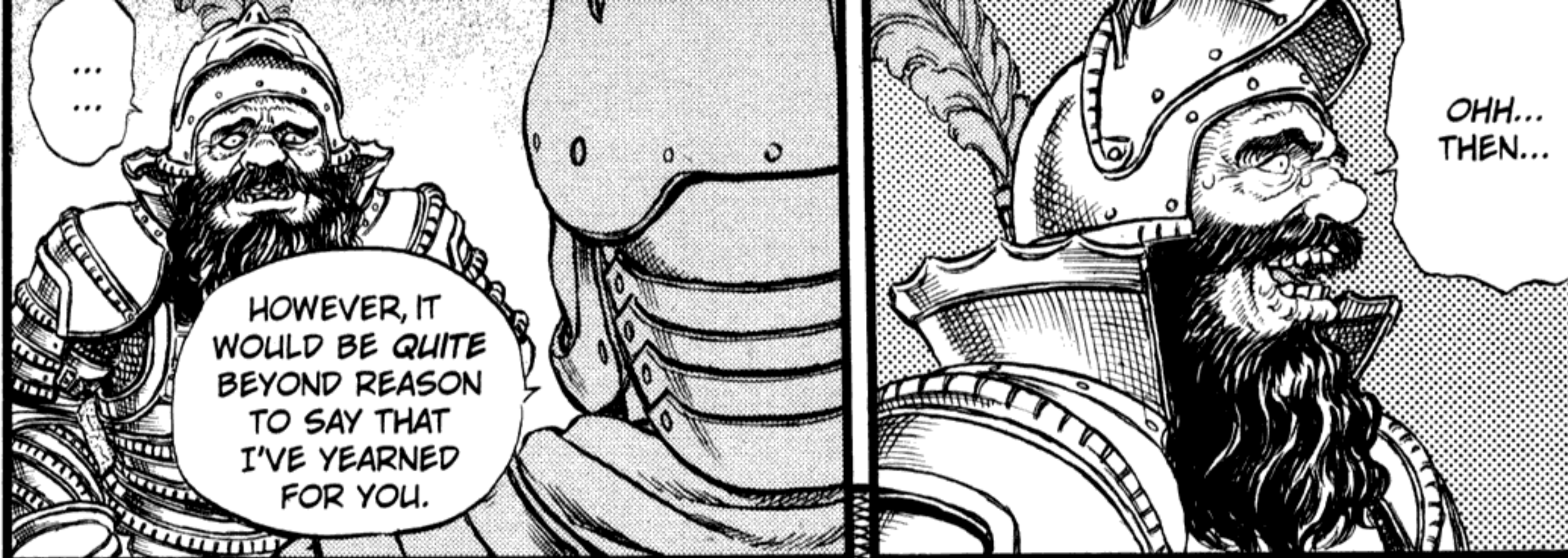


I DO NOT RESENT YOU. EXCEL- LENCY.

...
...



Y-YOU DON'T...?



...
...
HOWEVER, IT
WOULD BE QUITE
BEYOND REASON
TO SAY THAT
I'VE YEARNED
FOR YOU.

OHH...
THEN...

YOU
WERE
LIKE A
STONE
LYING BY
THE SIDE
OF THE
PATH I
WALK...

I SIMPLY
HAVE NO
EMOTIONAL
INTEREST
IN YOU
AT ALL.

THAT...

RESENTMENT,
ENDEARMENT...

...NOTHING.

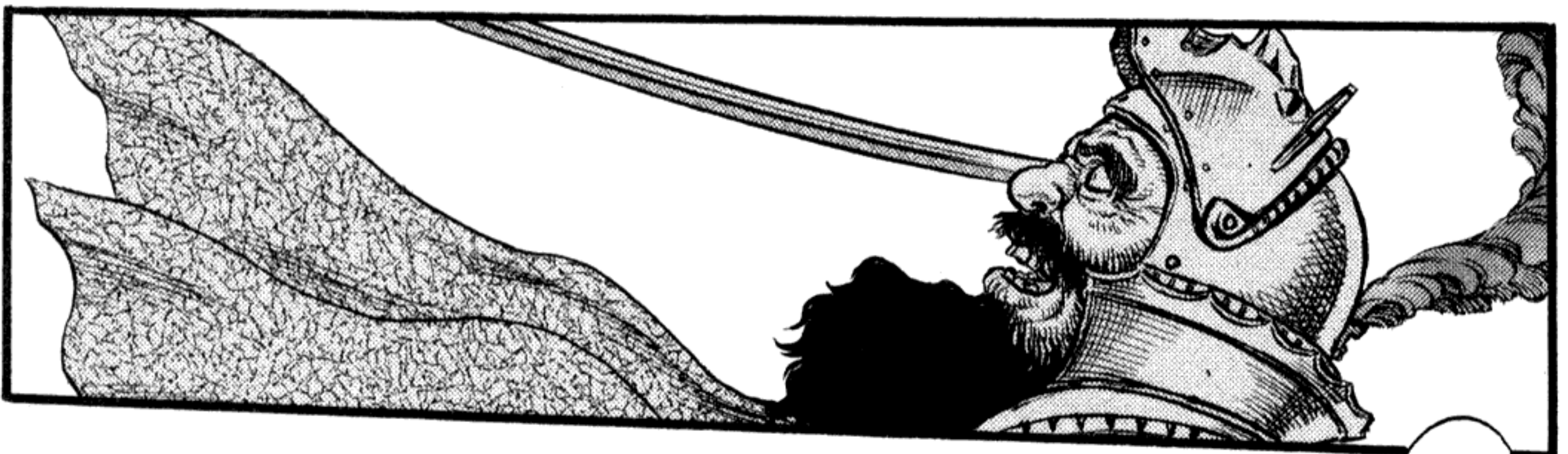
I JUST
TOOK THE
LIBERTY OF
USING YOU
WHEN THE
OPPORTUNITY
APPEARED.

..AND
NOTHING
MORE.



YOU...

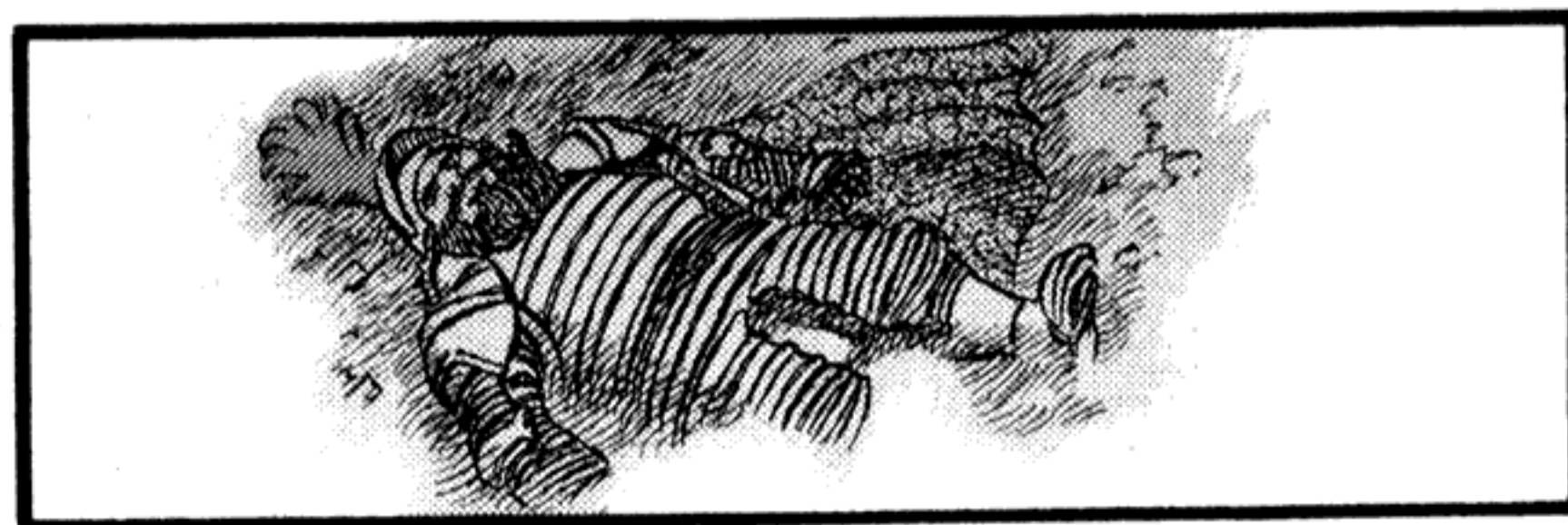
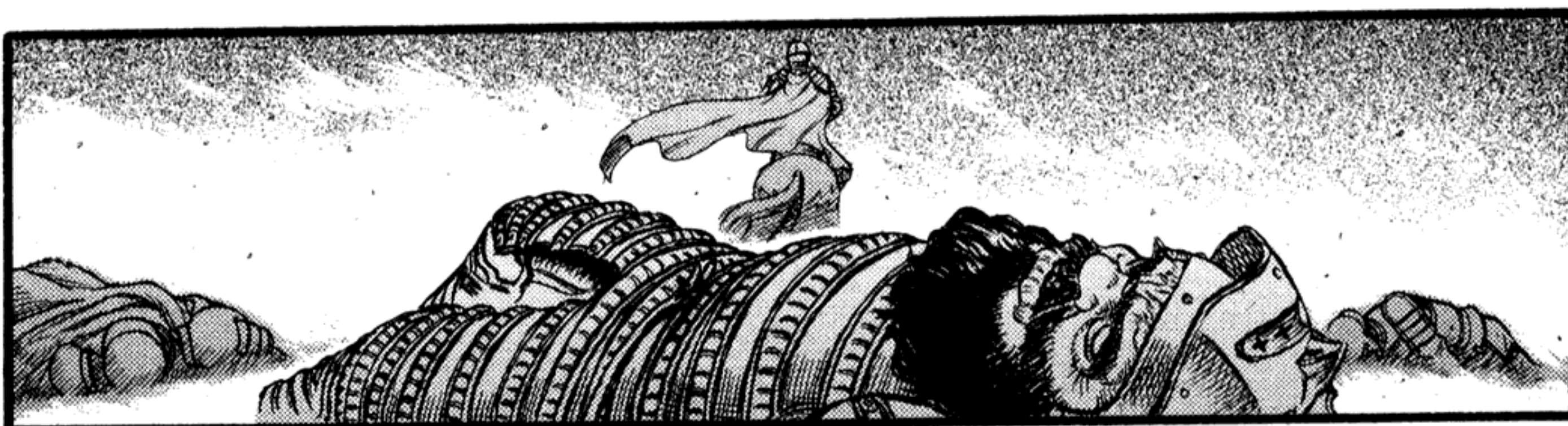
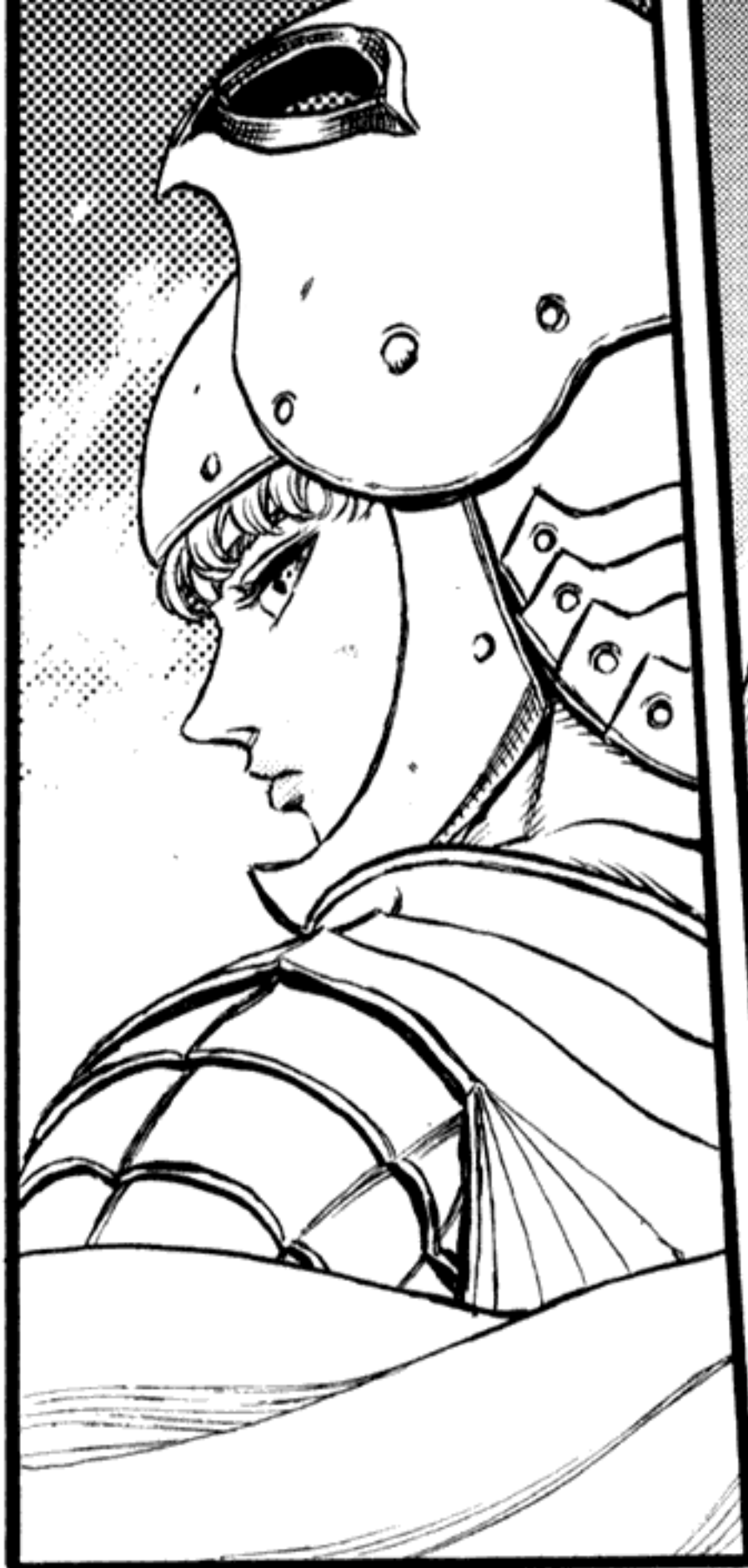
...
BASTARD
...!!

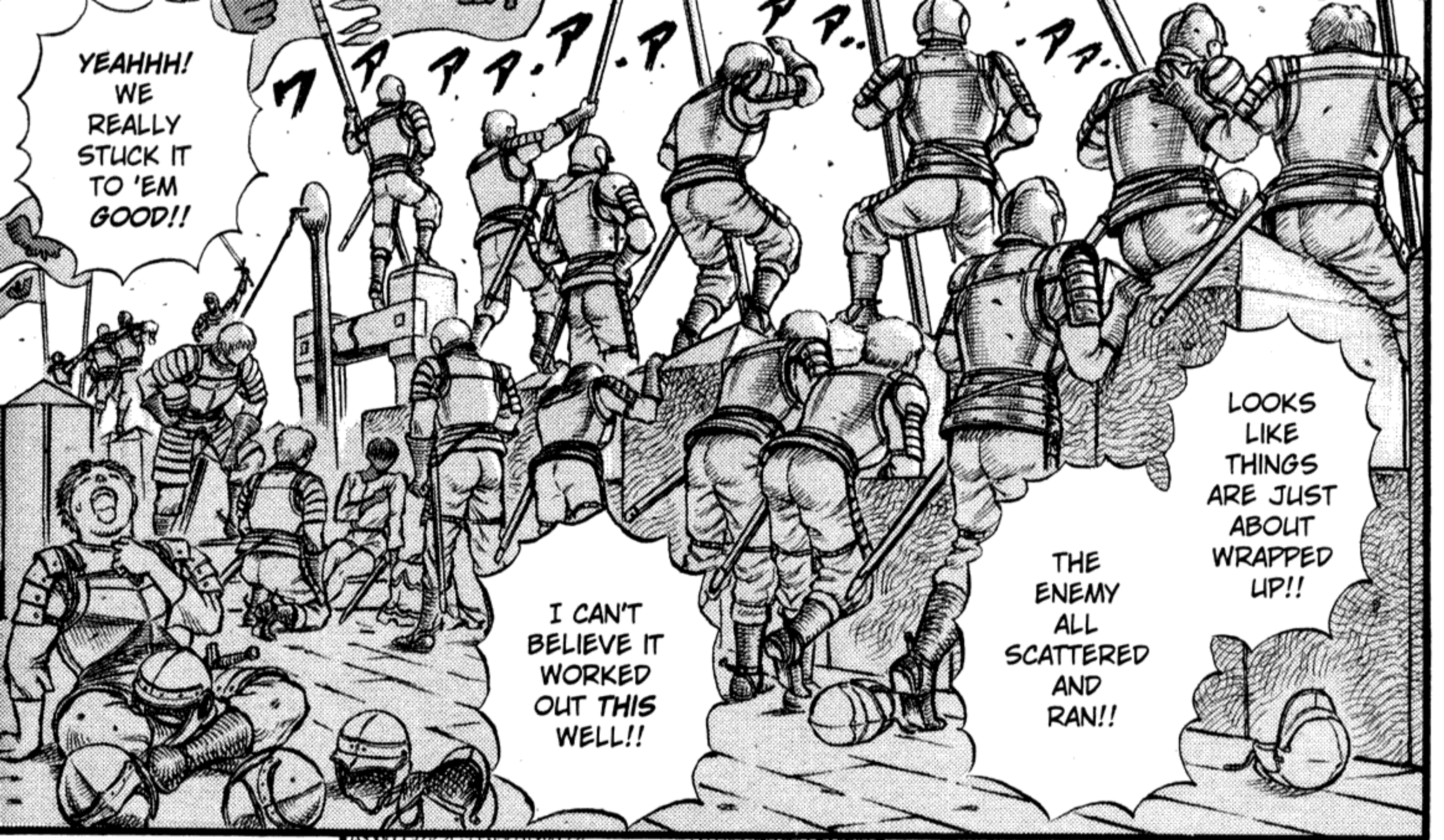


...WOULD
PROVE
SLIGHTLY
INCONVEN-
IENT.

...HAVING
YOUR LOOSE
TONGUE SPREAD
PETTY RUMORS
ABOUT ME...

AL-
THOUGH
...





YEAHHH!
WE
REALLY
STUCK IT
TO 'EM
GOOD!!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT
WORKED
OUT THIS
WELL!!

THE
ENEMY
ALL
SCATTERED
AND
RAN!!

LOOKS
LIKE
THINGS
ARE JUST
ABOUT
WRAPPED
UP!!



YEAH, I'M
FEELING
A LITTLE
BETTER...

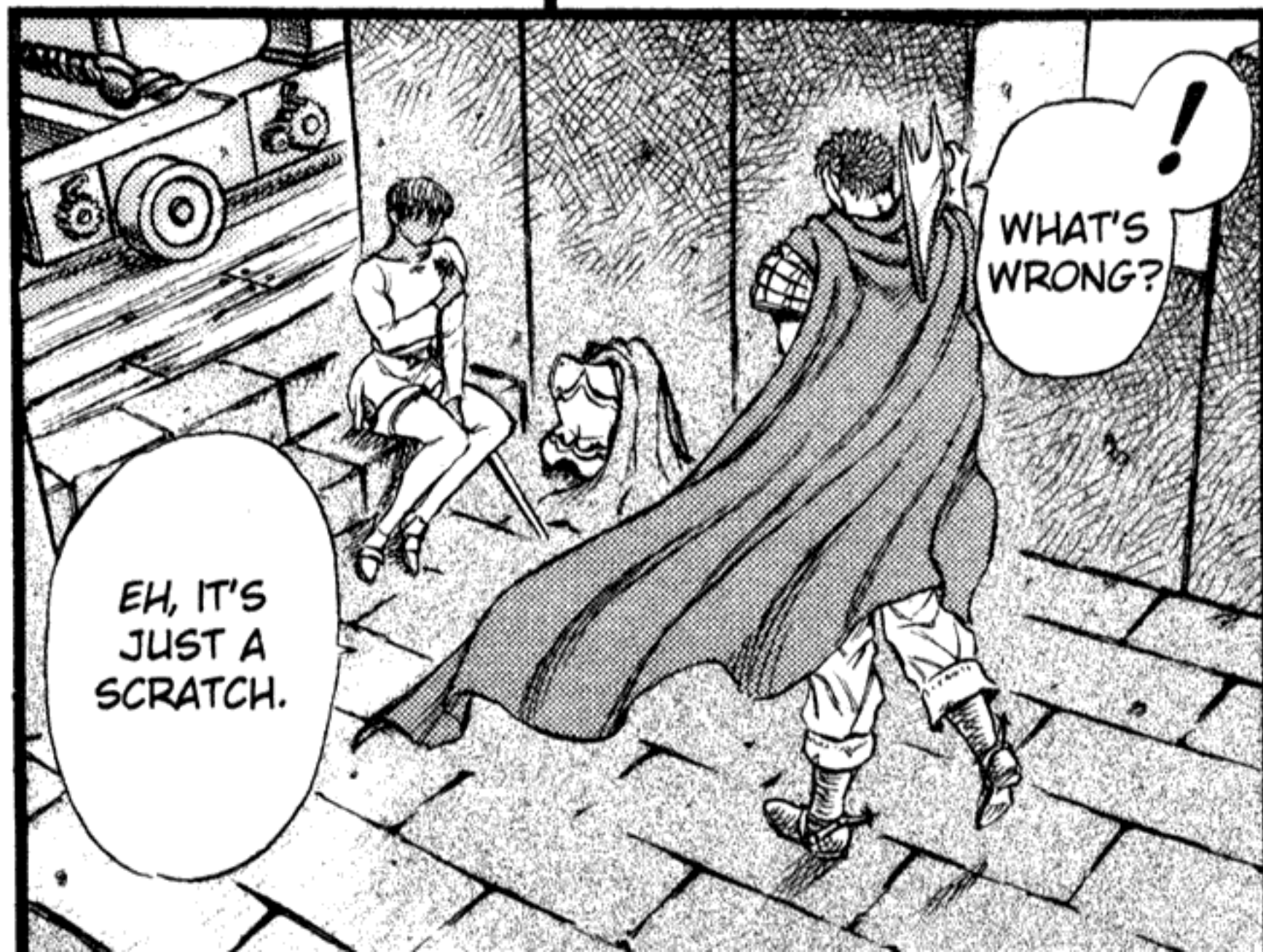
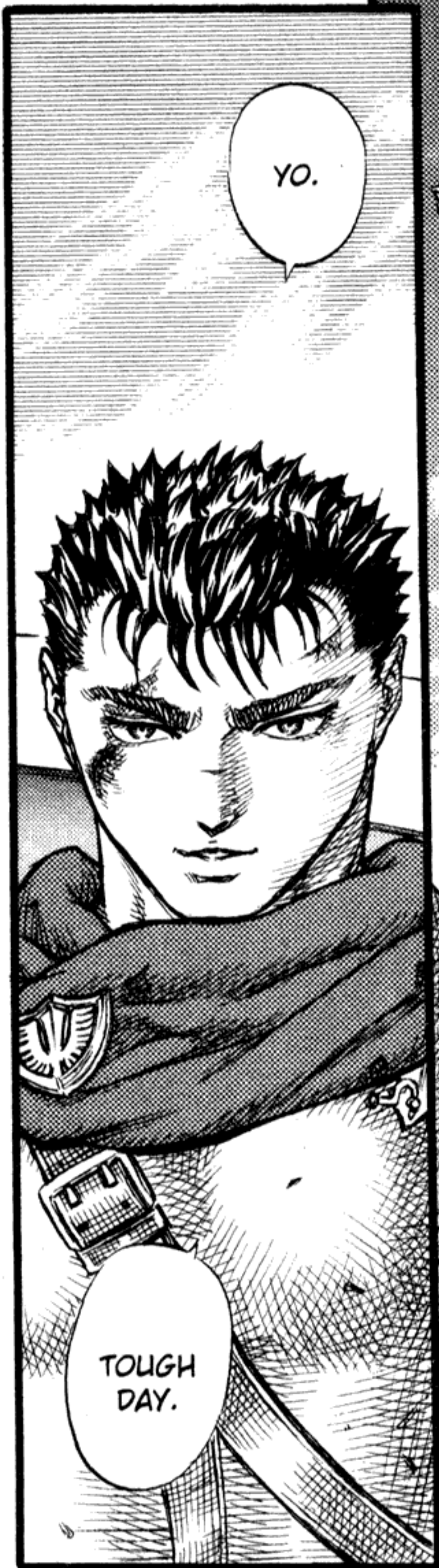
ARE
YOU
OKAY,
SIS?



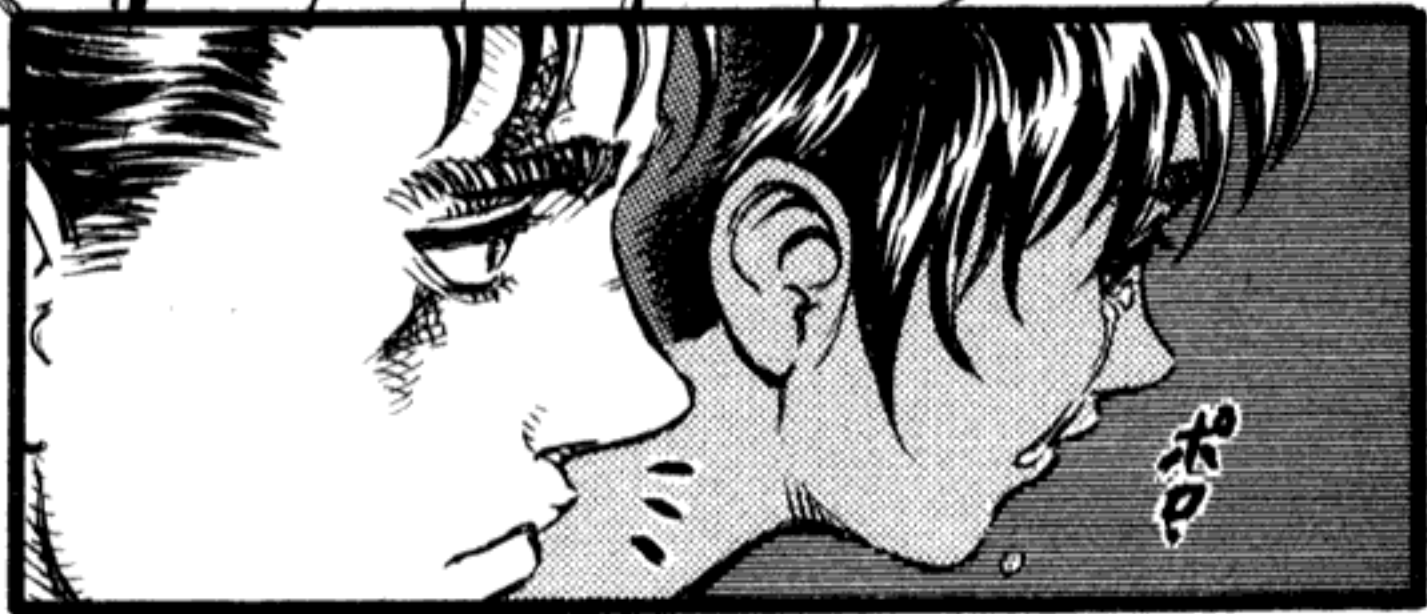
DON'T MIND ME...YOU
GLYS GO SEE IF ANY
ENEMIES REMAIN IN
THE FORTRESS.

YES,
MA'AM.

HEY!!
COME ON,
WORK
TIME!!





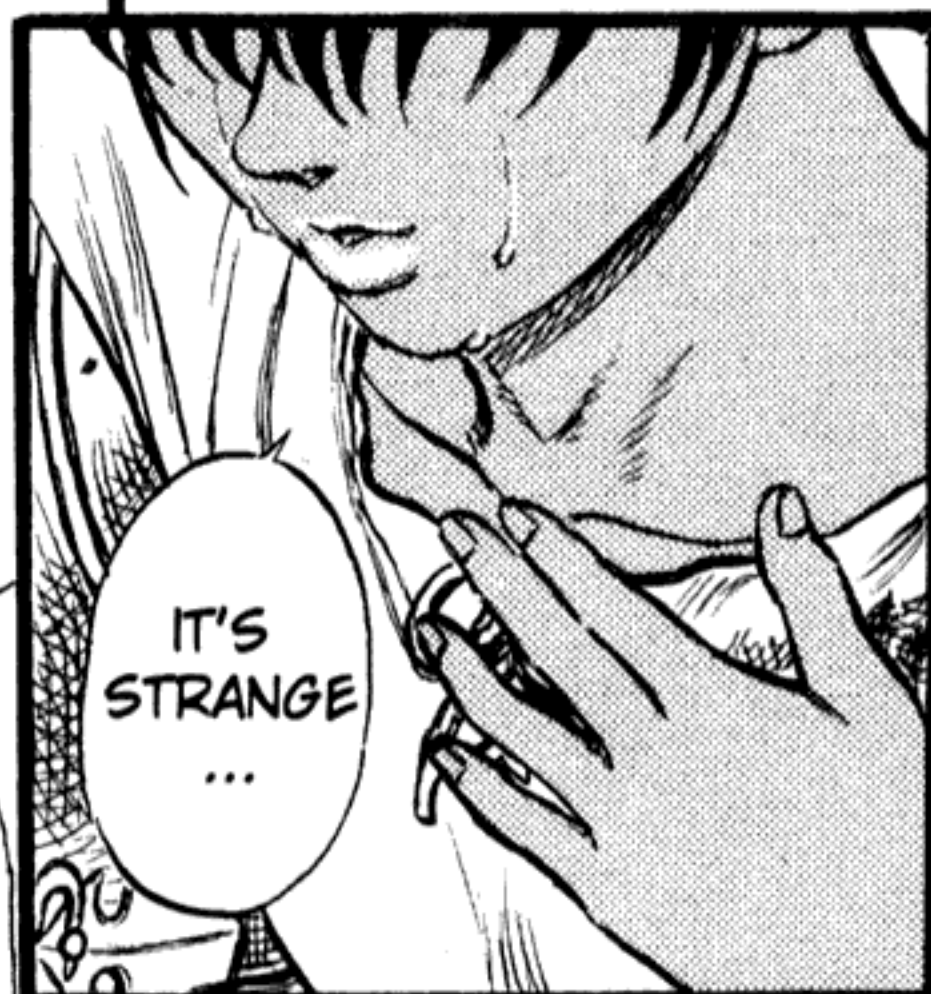




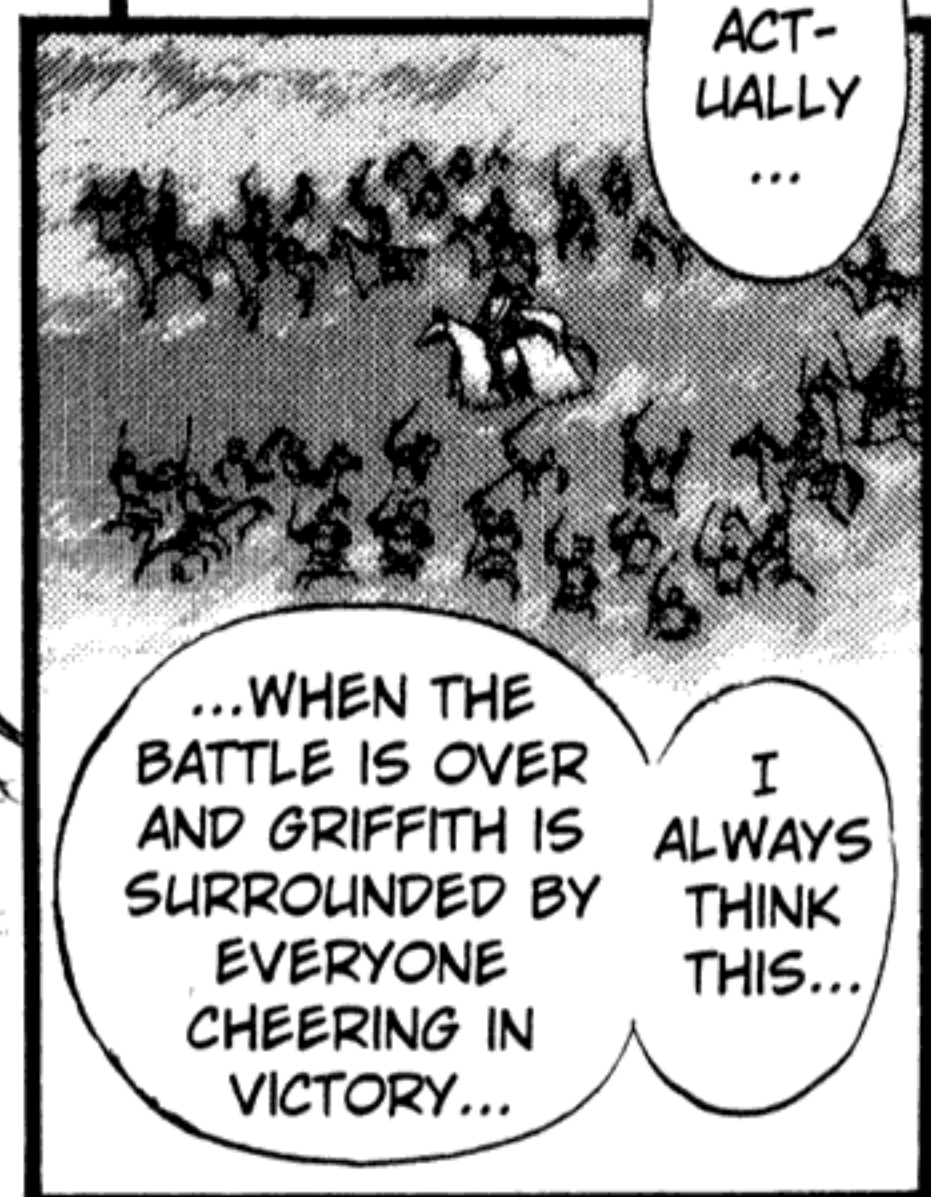
THAT HE'S
SOMEHOW
OUT OF
REACH...

THAT HE
EXISTS
SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY...

AND IT
HURTS.



IT'S
STRANGE
...

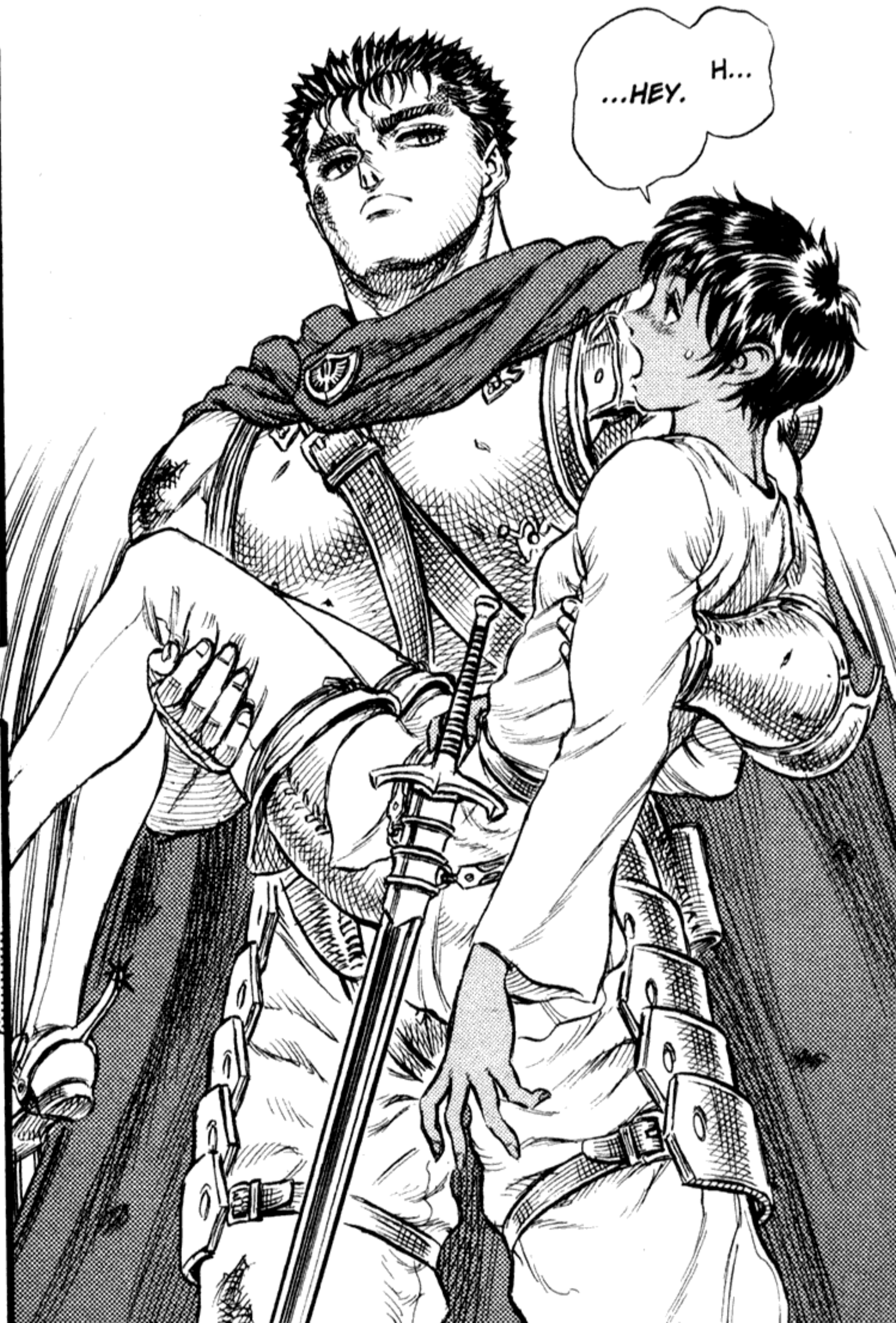


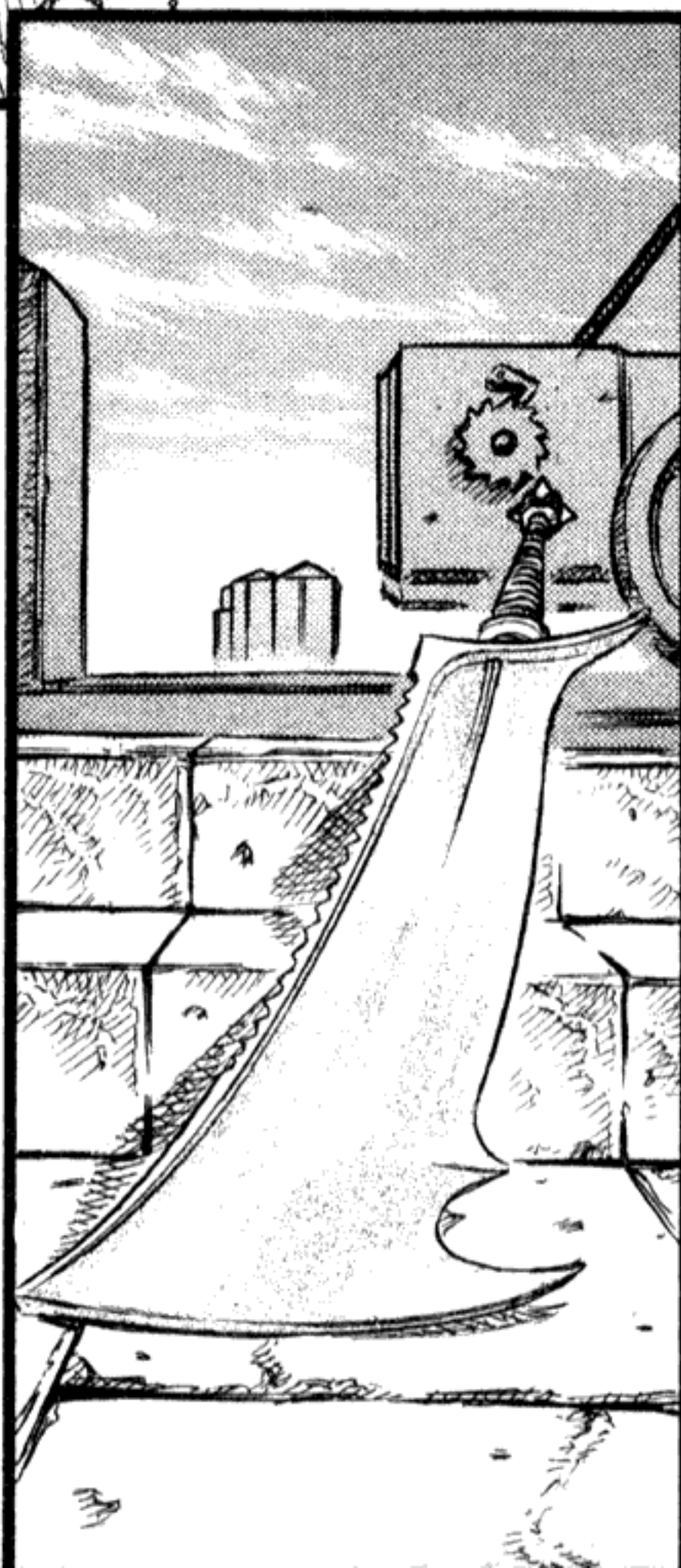
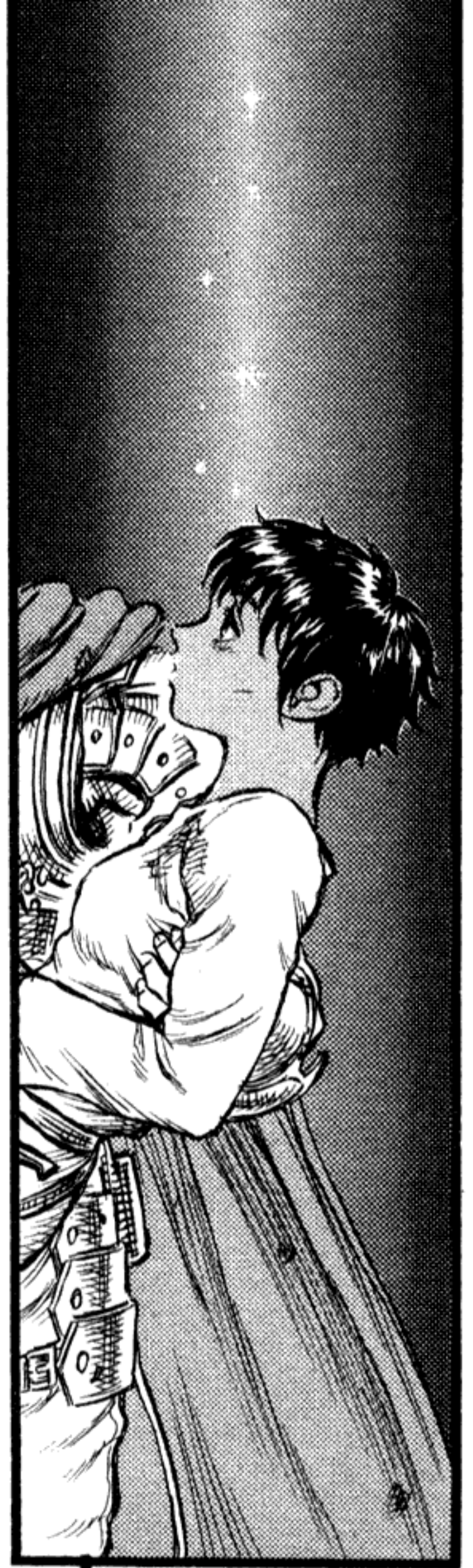
ACT-
UALLY
...

...WHEN THE
BATTLE IS OVER
AND GRIFFITH IS
SURROUNDED BY
EVERYONE
CHEERING IN
VICTORY...

I
ALWAYS
THINK
THIS...







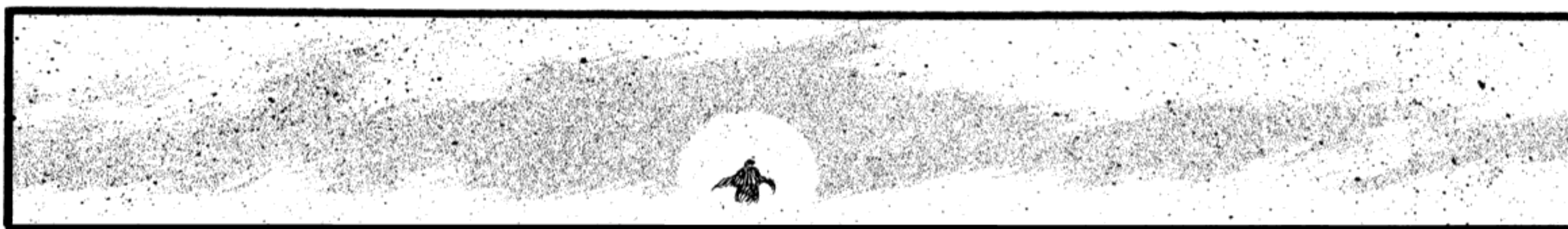




THE
ECLIPSE
WILL
SOON
COME...



AND THE
DEMON
ADVENT
APPROACHES



THE BATTLE FOR DOLDREY (6): END



**TRIUMPHANT
RETURN**



凱旋

凱 旋



HIS
AMBITION IS
OUTRAGEOUS!
HEEDLESS
OF HIS
OWN SOCIAL
STANDING...
UNPARALLELED
IMPUDENCE!

GRIFFITH
HAS DONE
VERY WELL
FOR HIMSELF
THESE YEARS
SINCE HE
APPEARED IN
MIDLAND.

THE WAR,
WHICH HAS
GONE ON
SO LONG,
WILL END
FOR NOW.

DOLDREY
HAS
FALLEN.

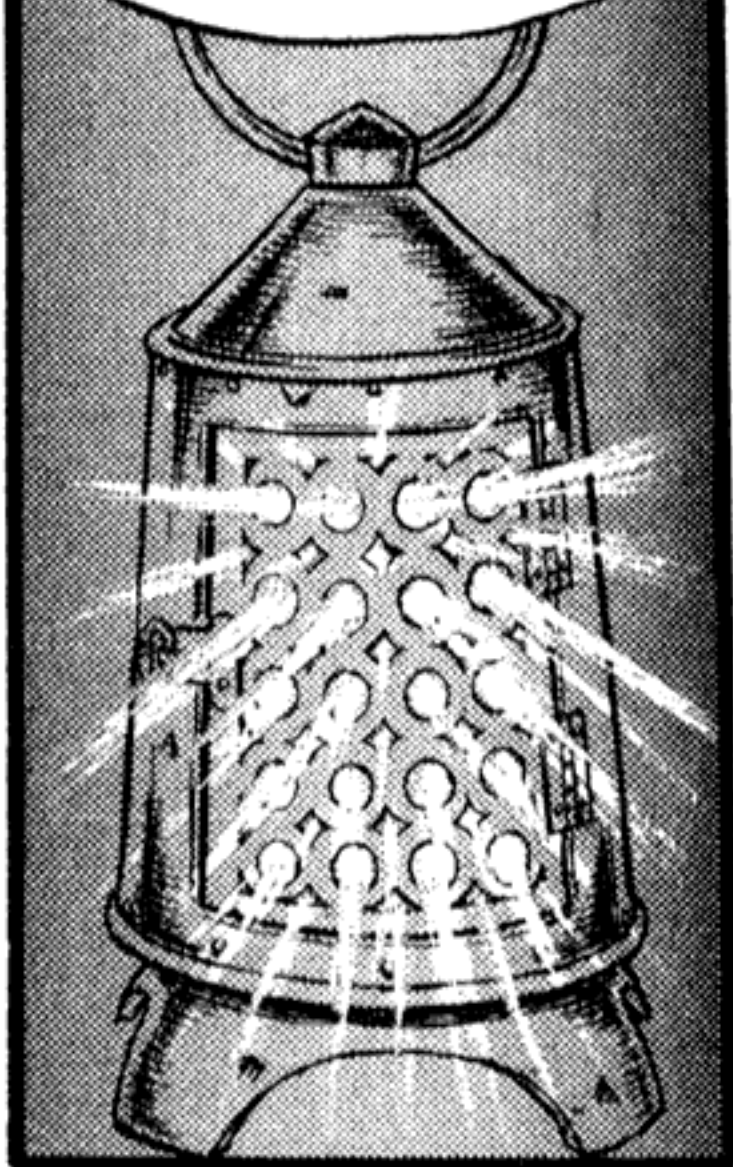
IT'S CERTAIN
THAT HE WILL
TRY TO ASSERT
HIMSELF EVEN
WITHIN OUR
KINGDOM'S
GOVERNMENT!

BUT HIS
POPULARITY
AMONGST
THE PEOPLE
THESE DAYS IS
TREMENDOUS!

EVEN HIS
MAJESTY
SEEMS TO
HAVE AN
EXTREME
AMOUNT OF
CONFIDENCE
IN HIM!

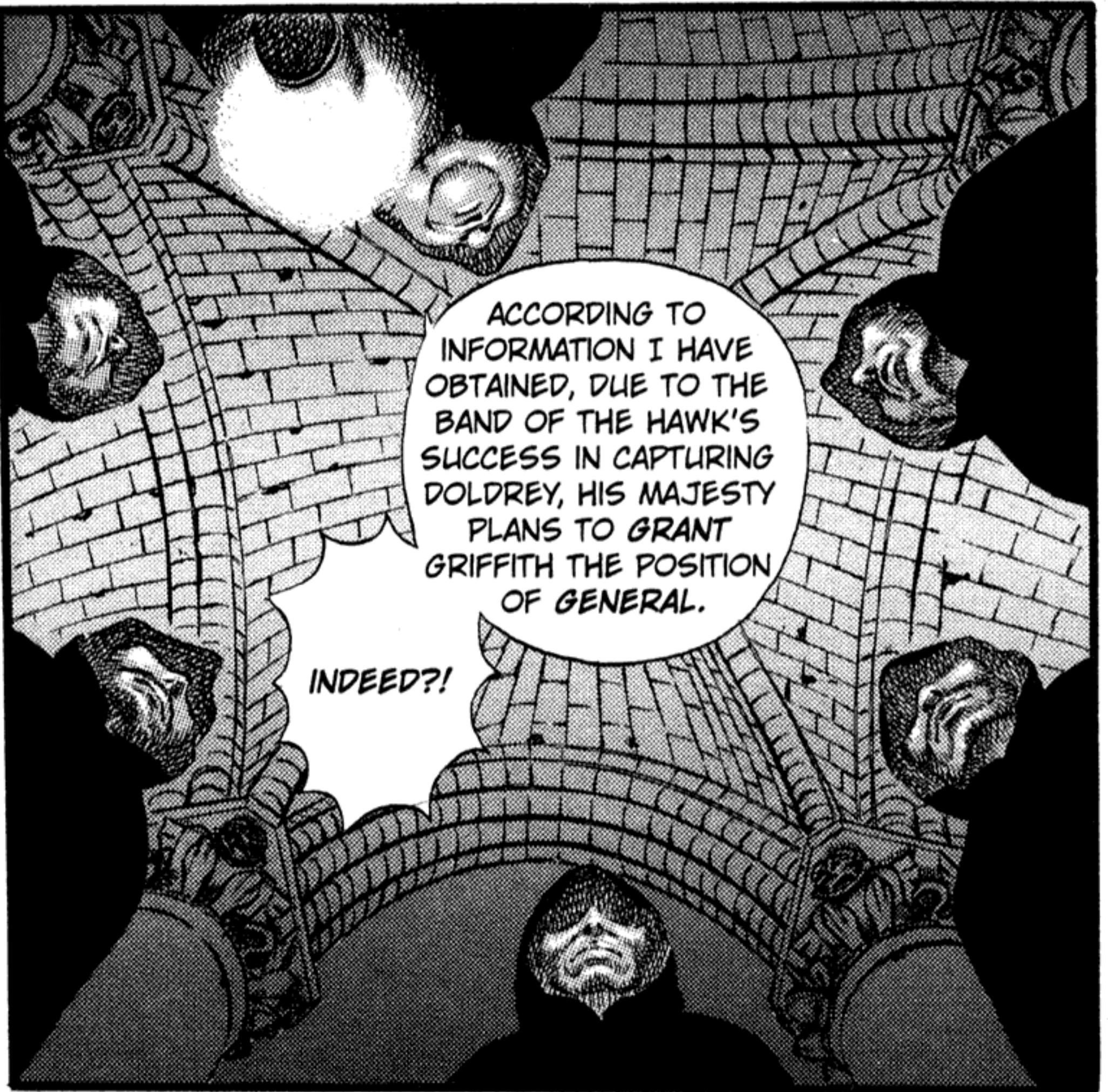
HOW
COULD SOME
UPSTART
KNIGHT WHO
KNOWS NOTHING
BUT COMBAT
BE ABLE TO
GOVERN
ANYTHING?!

HIS MAJESTY WILL
ALSO GRANT THE
WHITE TITLE, THE
SUPREME RANK OF
THE MIDLAND ARMY
SHARED BY THE
WHITE TIGERS AND
WHITE DRAGONS,
TO HIM AND
HIS BAND...

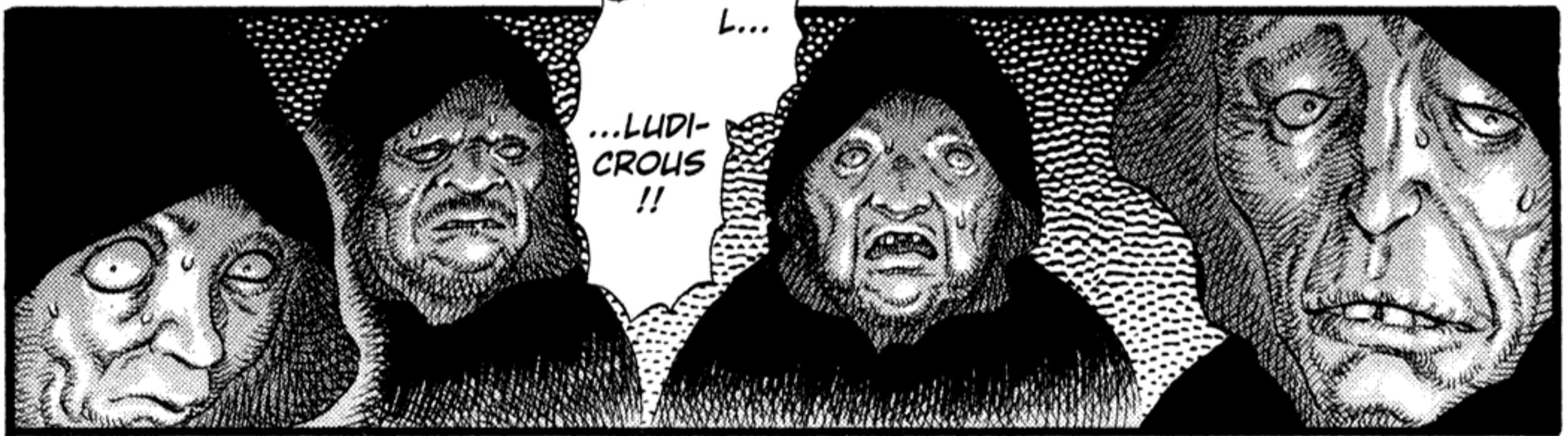


ACCORDING TO
INFORMATION I HAVE
OBTAINED, DUE TO THE
BAND OF THE HAWK'S
SUCCESS IN CAPTURING
DOLDREY, HIS MAJESTY
PLANS TO GRANT
GRIFFITH THE POSITION
OF GENERAL.

INDEED?!



L...
...LUDI-
CROUS
!!



IN THAT CASE,
HIS POLITICAL
AUTHORITY WILL
INEVITABLY SEE
SUBSTANTIAL
GROWTH!

HOW
COULD
THIS
BE?!

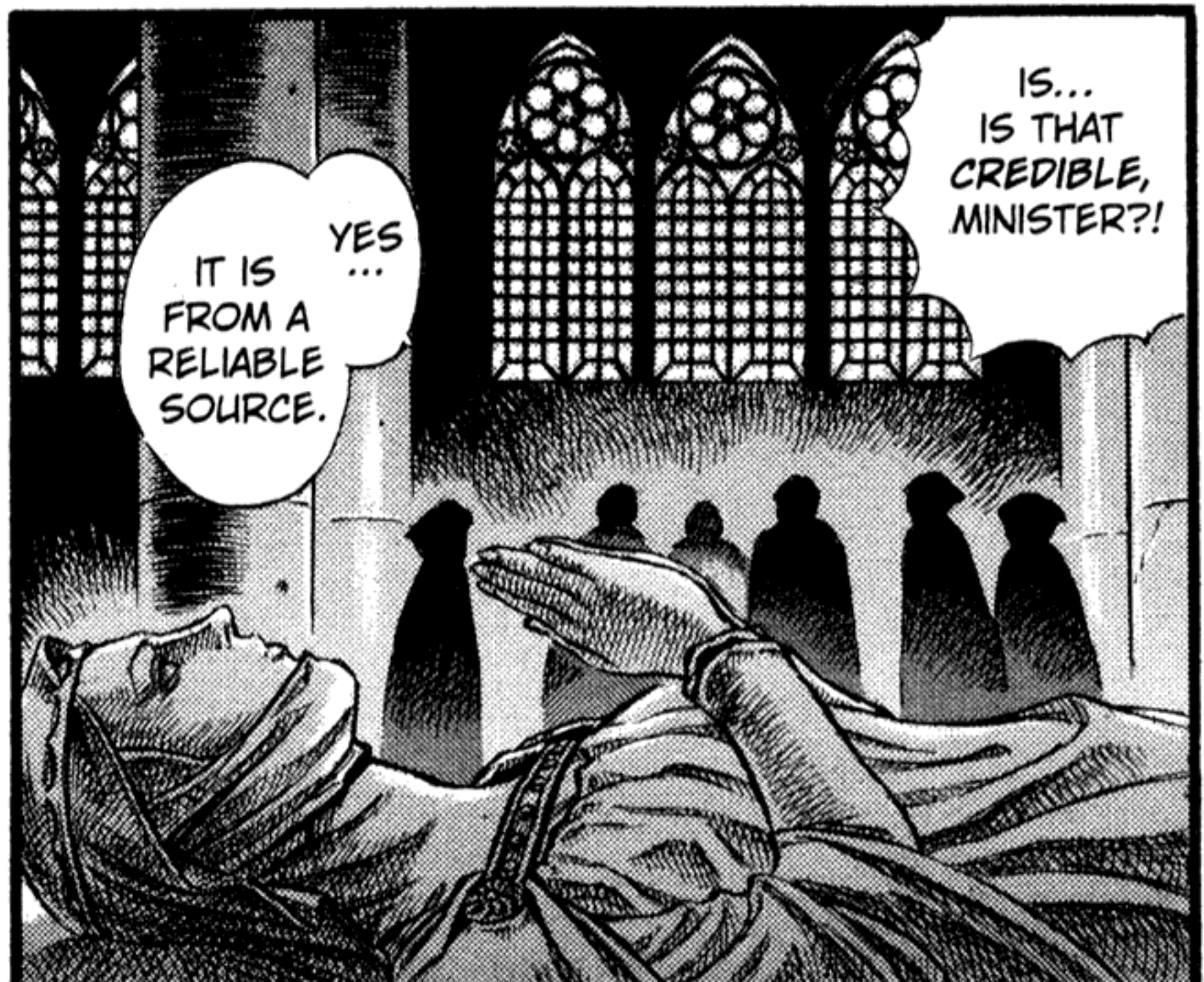
THIS
MEANS
AFTER
ALL...



IT IS
FROM A
RELIABLE
SOURCE.

YES
...

IS...
IS THAT
CREDIBLE,
MINISTER?!



...TO
SURVIVE
WITHIN
THE
CASTLE.

...THAT HE
IS A BIT TOO
BEREFT OF
DISCRETION...



BY
WHAT
MEANS
SHALL
WE...?

BUT,
MINISTER
FOSS...

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. EVEN
IF A MISTAKE IS MADE, SUCH A
THING WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.
FIRST OFF, WE WILL NOT HAVE
ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT.

WHAT OF THE
OFF CHANCE
OUR SCHEME
COMES TO
LIGHT?

B-BUT
IS THIS
REALLY
SAFE?

ANTIARIS.

B-
BUT...

HAVE
NO
FEAR.

AN
INSTANTLY
DEADLY
POISON. WE
WILL PUT THIS
IN HIS GOBLET
WHILE HE
ENJOYS THE
VICTORY
CELEBRATION.

EVEN IF
WHAT YOU
SUGGEST
WERE TO
HAPPEN,

I
PROMISE
IT.

I
WOULD
SEE IT
SETTLED
PRIVATELY.

オオ
OH
MY...

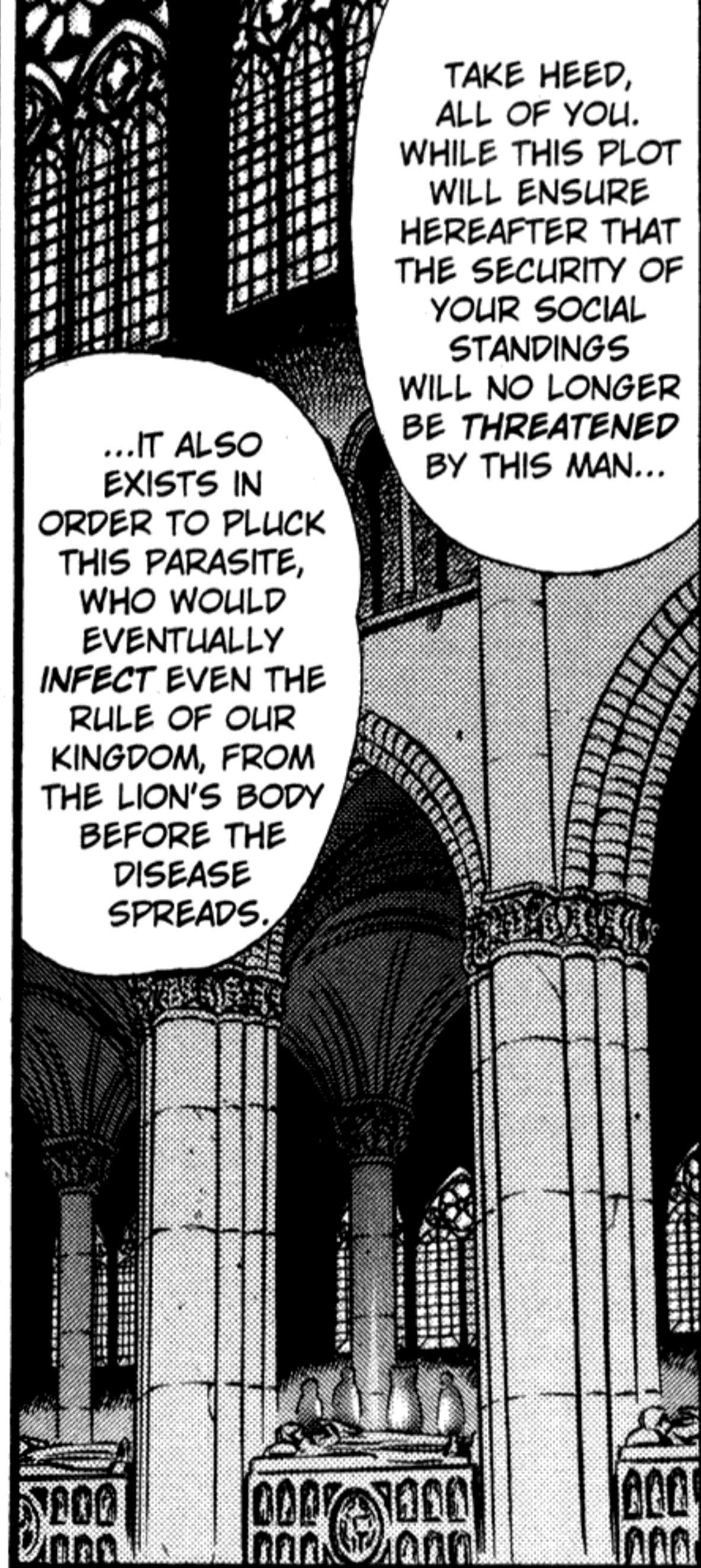
WITH AN
ASSURANCE
SUCH AS
THAT FROM
THE QUEEN,
WE HAVE
NOTHING
TO FEAR.





FOR THE
SAKE OF
THE KINGDOM,
AND FOR ALL
THAT IS
JUST!

I AM NOT
ABOUT TO
ALLOW THE
LONG AND
GLORIOUS
HISTORY OF
MIDLAND'S
RULE TO BE
TRAMPLED
UPON BY
THIS LOWLY
COMMONER
FROM WHO
KNOWS
WHERE!



TAKE HEED,
ALL OF YOU.
WHILE THIS PLOT
WILL ENSURE
HEREAFTER THAT
THE SECURITY OF
YOUR SOCIAL
STANDINGS
WILL NO LONGER
BE THREATENED
BY THIS MAN...

...IT ALSO
EXISTS IN
ORDER TO PLUCK
THIS PARASITE,
WHO WOULD
EVENTUALLY
INFECT EVEN THE
RULE OF OUR
KINGDOM, FROM
THE LION'S BODY
BEFORE THE
DISEASE
SPREADS.



IT WAS WISE OF ME
TO PLANT THE IDEA
THAT GENERAL JULIUS'
DEATH WAS A PLOT
DESIGNED BY GRIFFITH.
BUT TO THINK THAT
SHE WOULD GO
SO FAR AS TO
VOLUNTEER TO
LEAD THIS
PLAN...

I WAS AWARE OF
THE CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION THAT
THE QUEEN AND
GENERAL JULIUS
WERE INVOLVED
IN A LOVE AFFAIR
UNBEKNOWNST
TO HIS
MAJESTY.



NATURALLY
YOU ARE
CORRECT.

WE TOO
VALUE
PATRIOTISM
ABOVE ALL.



...



JULIUS.....



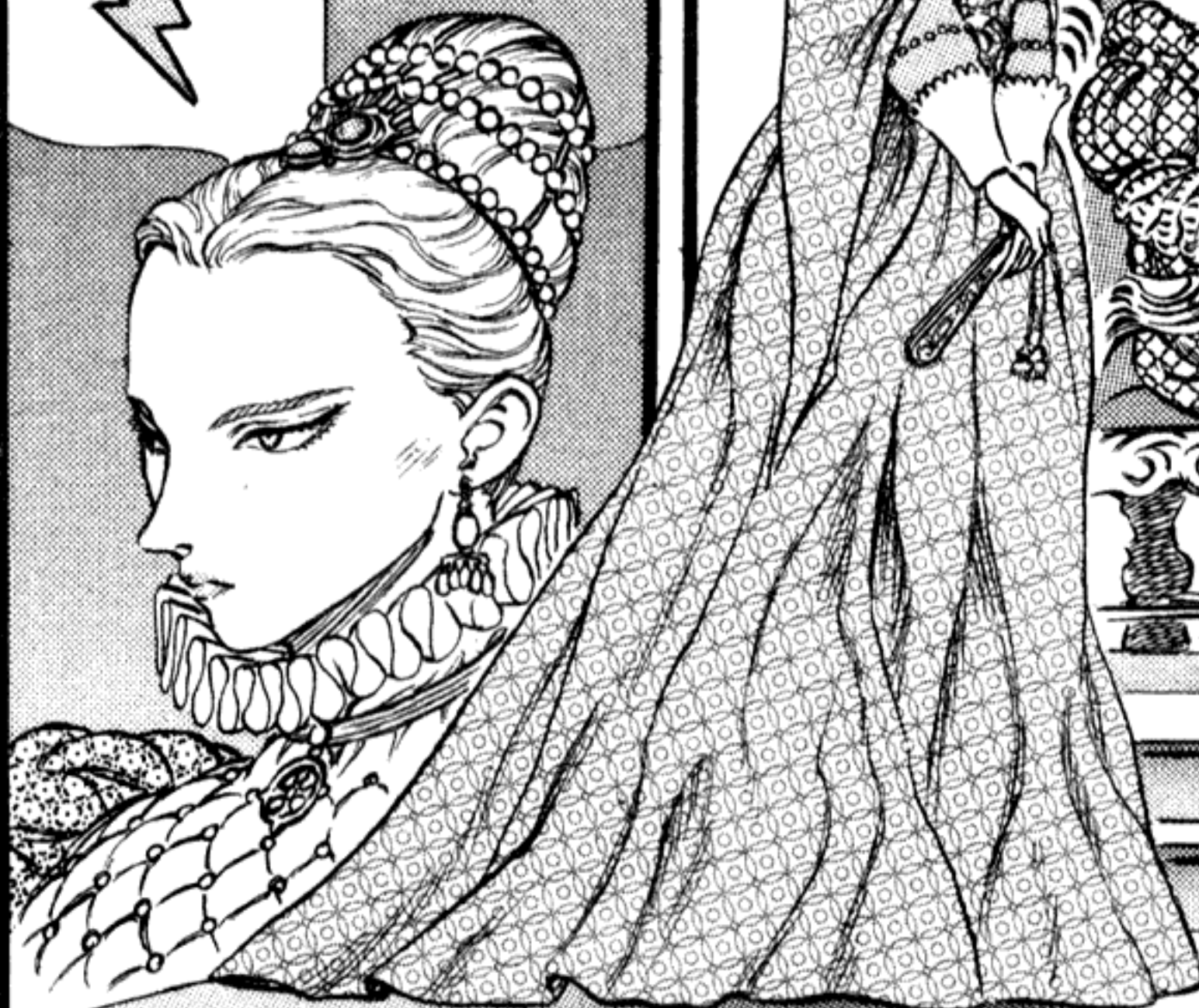
THEREFORE
AS ONE MAN,
HE HAD NO
TIME TO GIVE
TO HIS
FAMILY.

THE
BURDEN OF
RULING THE
KINGDOM
MUST WEIGH
HEAVILY UPON
HIM...

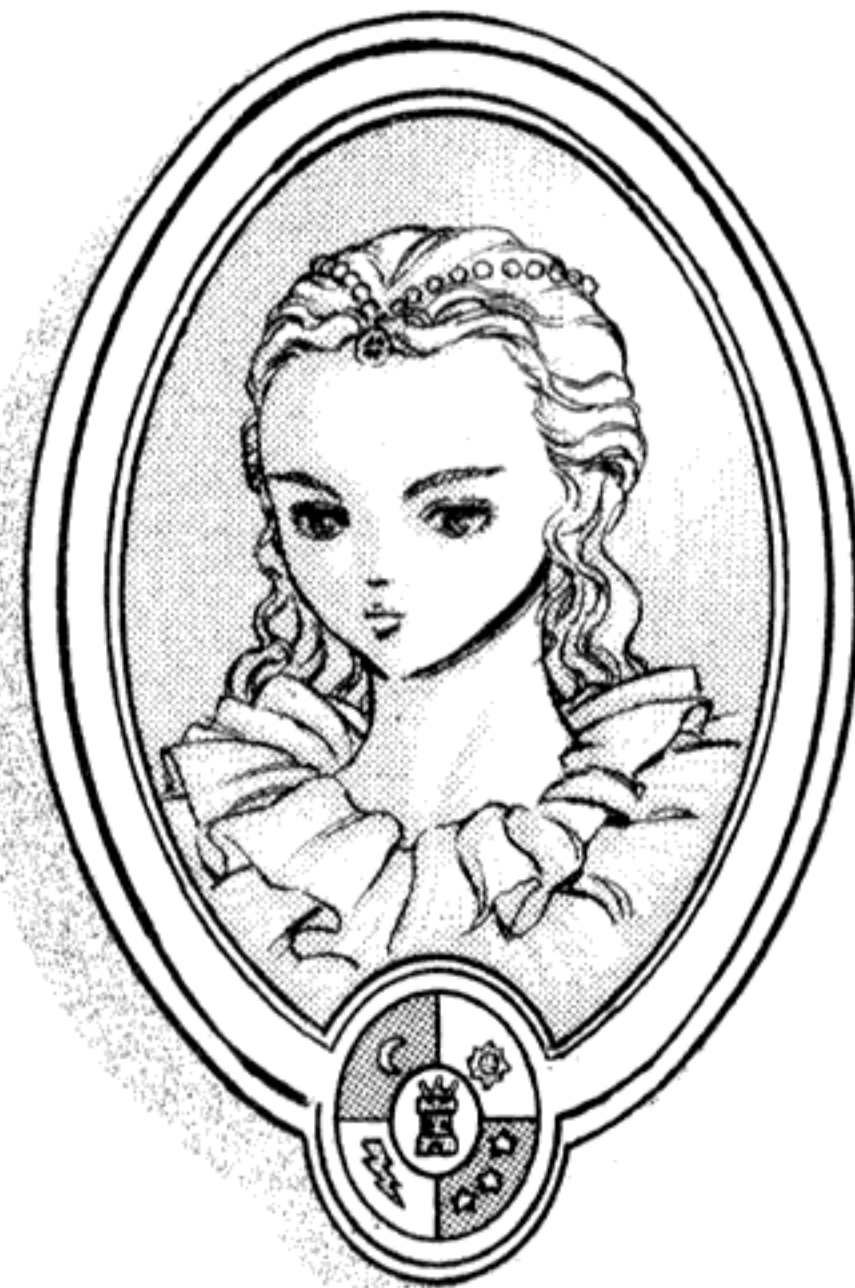


HIS
MAJESTY
MADE A
GOOD KING
BUT NOT
A GOOD
HUSBAND.

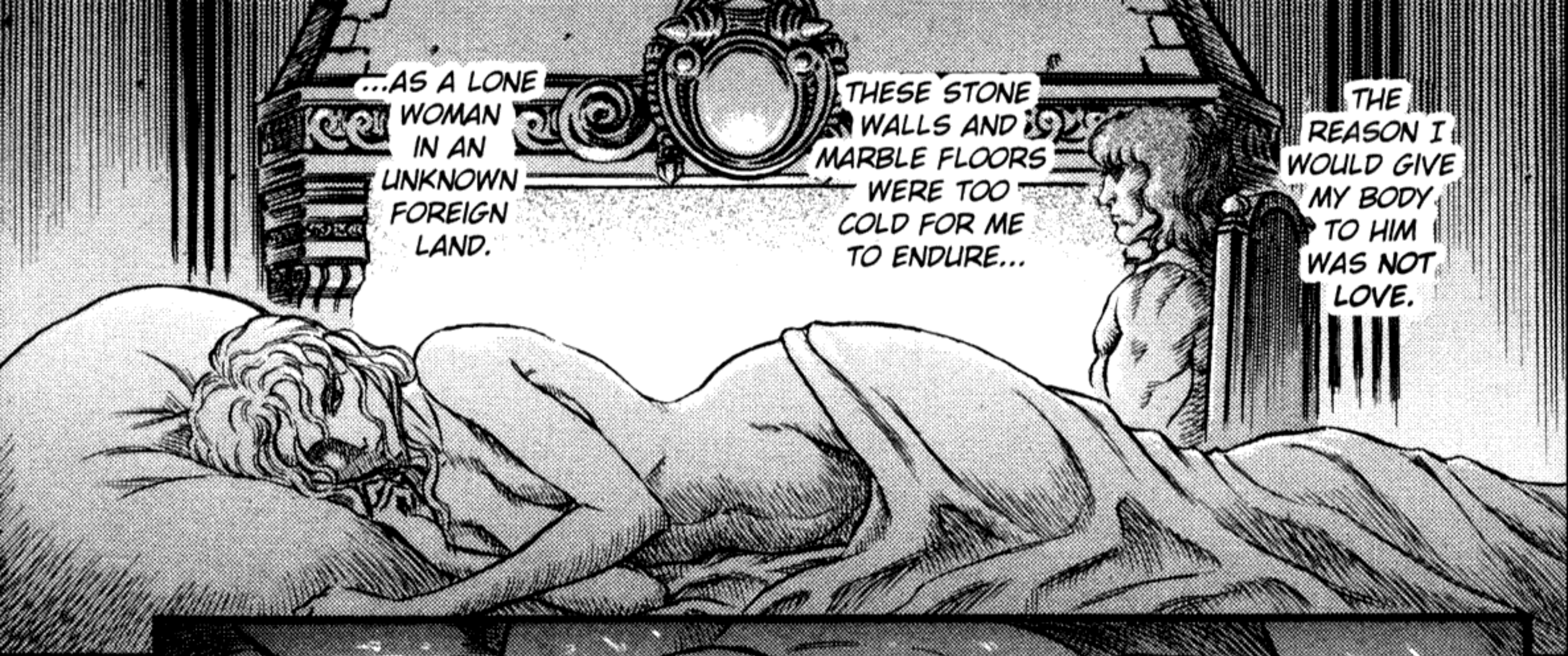
AS ALL HAD HOPED,
UNDER THE GUISE OF A
POLITICAL MARRIAGE, I
CONVENIENTLY ENTERED
THIS KINGDOM AS THE
QUEEN OF MIDLAND RATHER
THAN THE KING'S WIFE.
THAT HAS BEEN MY
DISPOSITION TOWARDS MY
WEAK-LOVING HUSBAND.



I HAVE, IN THE SAME
WAY PUBLICLY,
FAITHFULLY FULFILLED
MY ROLE AS HIS
MAJESTY'S QUEEN
THESE TEN-ODD
YEARS.



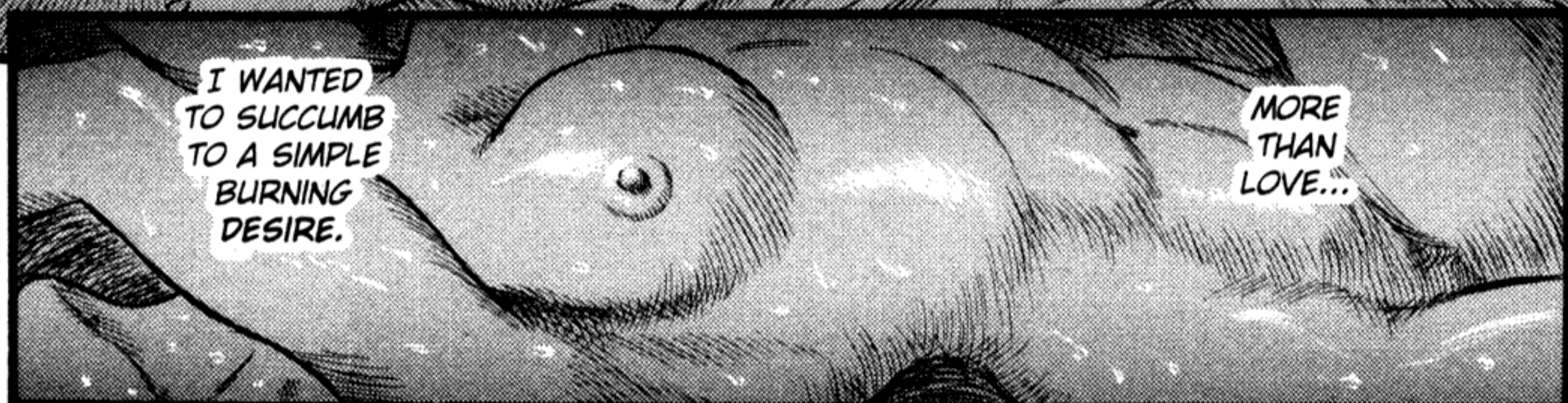
NO, PERHAPS THAT WAS
AN ESCAPE FROM SORROW
OVER THE DEATH OF THE
FORMER QUEEN, SAID TO
BE THE ONE AND ONLY
WOMAN HE LOVED.....



...AS A LONE
WOMAN
IN AN
UNKNOWN
FOREIGN
LAND.

THESE STONE
WALLS AND
MARBLE FLOORS
WERE TOO
COLD FOR ME
TO ENDURE...

THE
REASON I
WOULD GIVE
MY BODY
TO HIM
WAS NOT
LOVE.



I WANTED
TO SUCCUMB
TO A SIMPLE
BURNING
DESIRE.

MORE
THAN
LOVE...



...JUST HOW MUCH I
RESIDED WITHIN THE
WARMTH OF THE SKIN
OF THAT MAN, WITH
WHOM I SHARED NO
EMOTION...

BUT NOW THAT
IT'S LOST, I FIRST
UNDERSTAND...



I
LOVED
HIM.

...I WAS
IN LOVE.

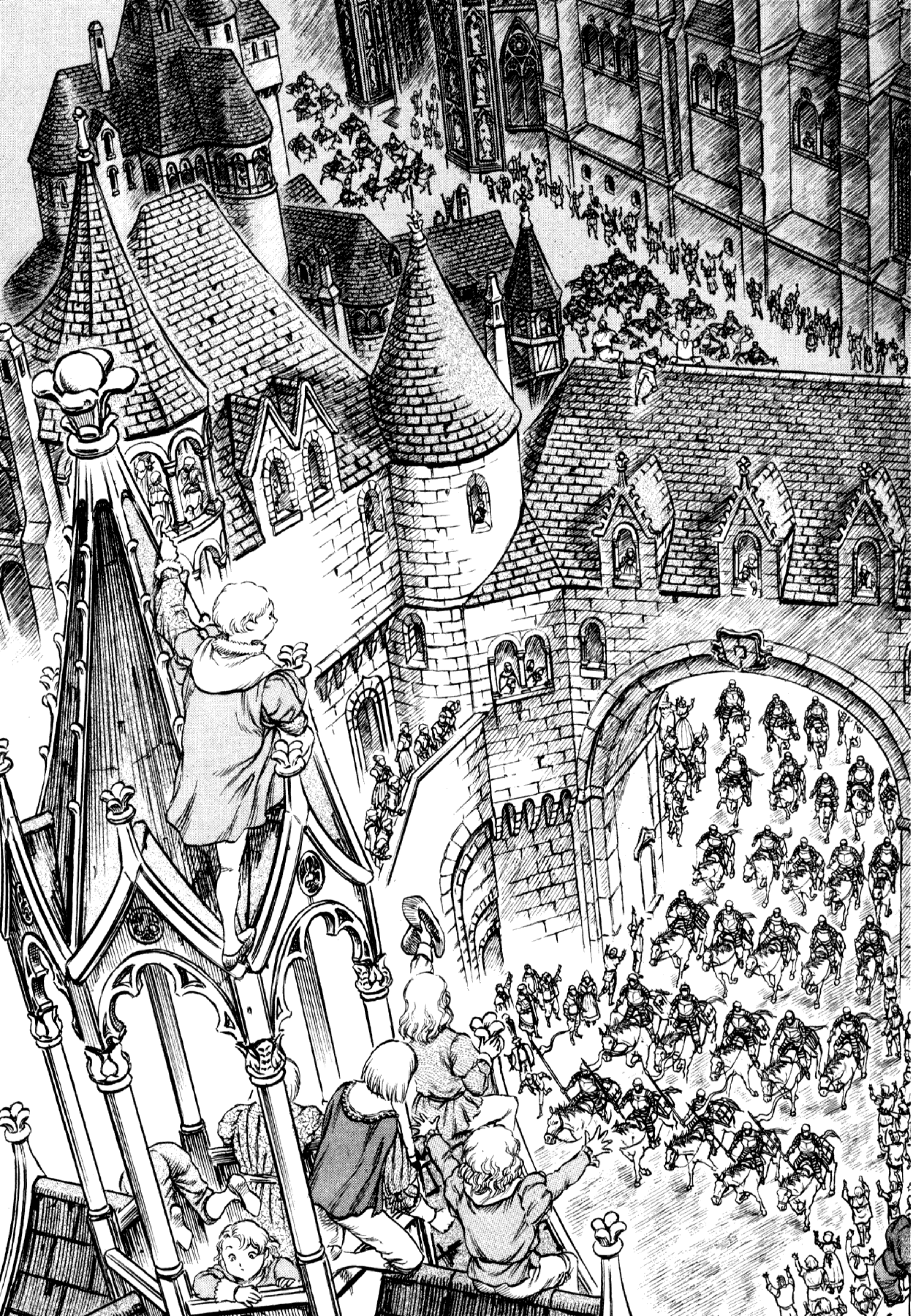


...BUT AS
A WOMAN
WILL I
TAKE MY
REVENGE!

NOT
AS THE
QUEEN
OF
MIDLAND...



I WILL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU,
GRIFFITH...



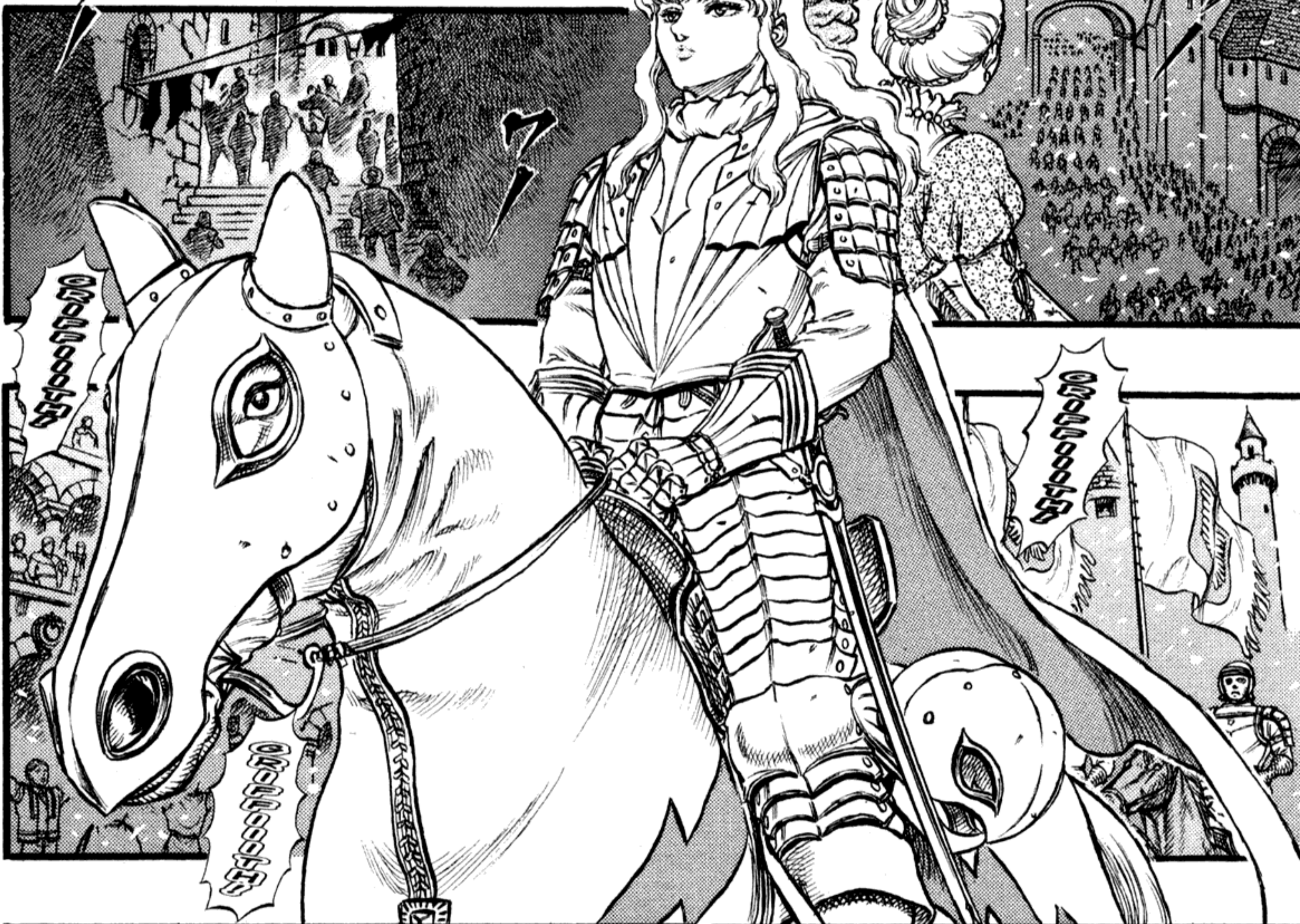
AS EVIDENCE
OF OUR
PATRIOTISM
AND MUTUAL
CONFIDENCE
...

NOW THEN,
EVERYONE.



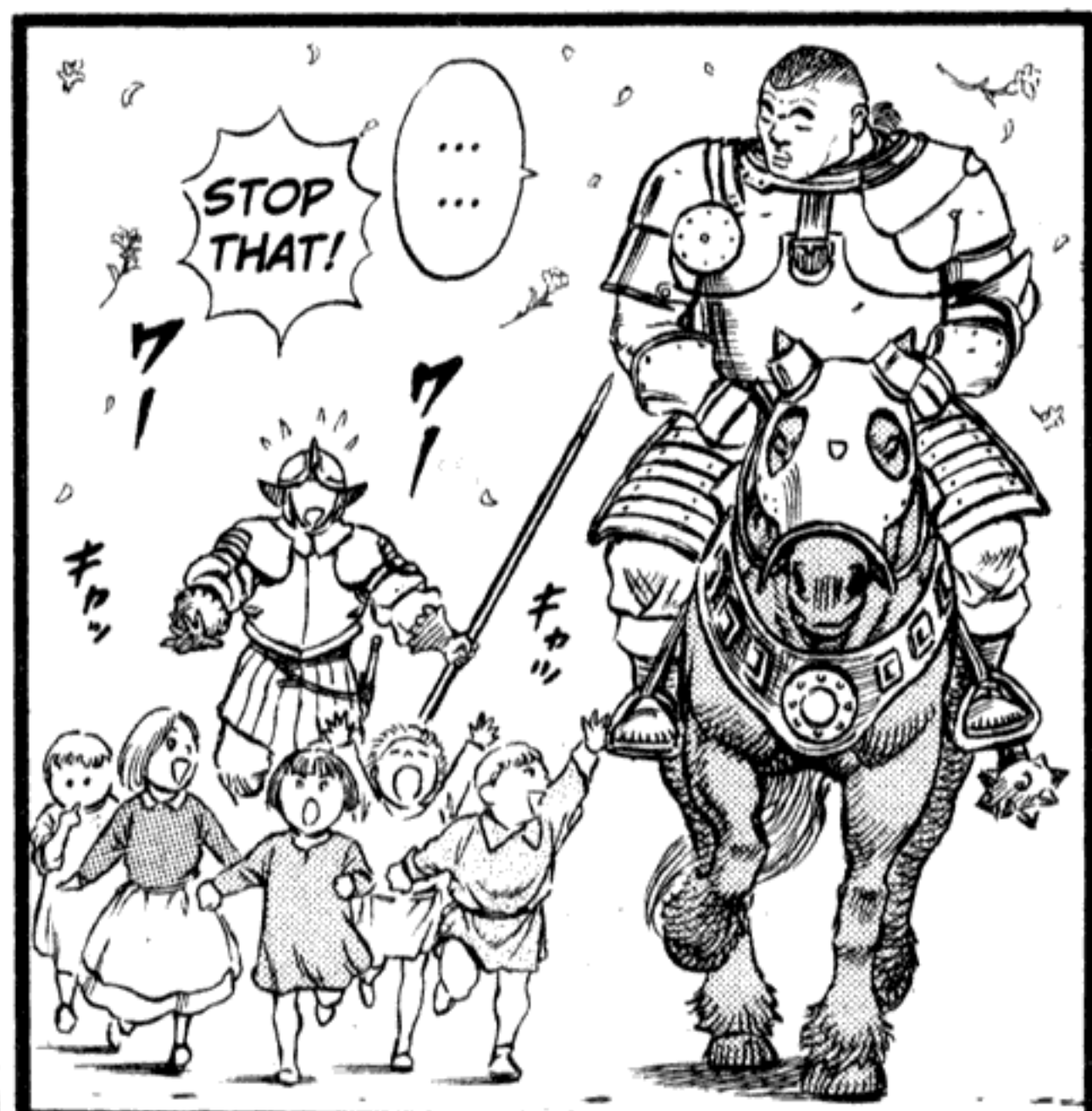
...IF YOU
WOULD
SEAL THIS
BLOOD
OATH.....





HULK HOGAN







YOU KNOW, NOBODY
EVEN IMAGINED ALL
THIS THREE YEARS
AGO.

HOW
TRUE
THAT
IS.



WHY DON'T YOU
TRY WAVING ONCE,
CAPTAIN? YOU'RE
THE HERO THIS
TIME, AFTER ALL.



THIS IS AMAZIN'!! I'VE
NEVER SEEN A
WELCOME THIS BIG
FOR A VICTORY!!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER? YOU'RE
SPACING OUT...
AND YOU LOOK
UPSET.

NAH,
IT'S
NOTHIN'.



CAPTAIN?

EH?

NOBODY
BUT HIM...



"I WILL
GET MY
OWN
KINGDOM."



...INCRED-
IBLE.

ABSO-
LUTELY...



NO, IT BECOMES YOU.

TELL ME, DOES THIS LOOK STRANGE?

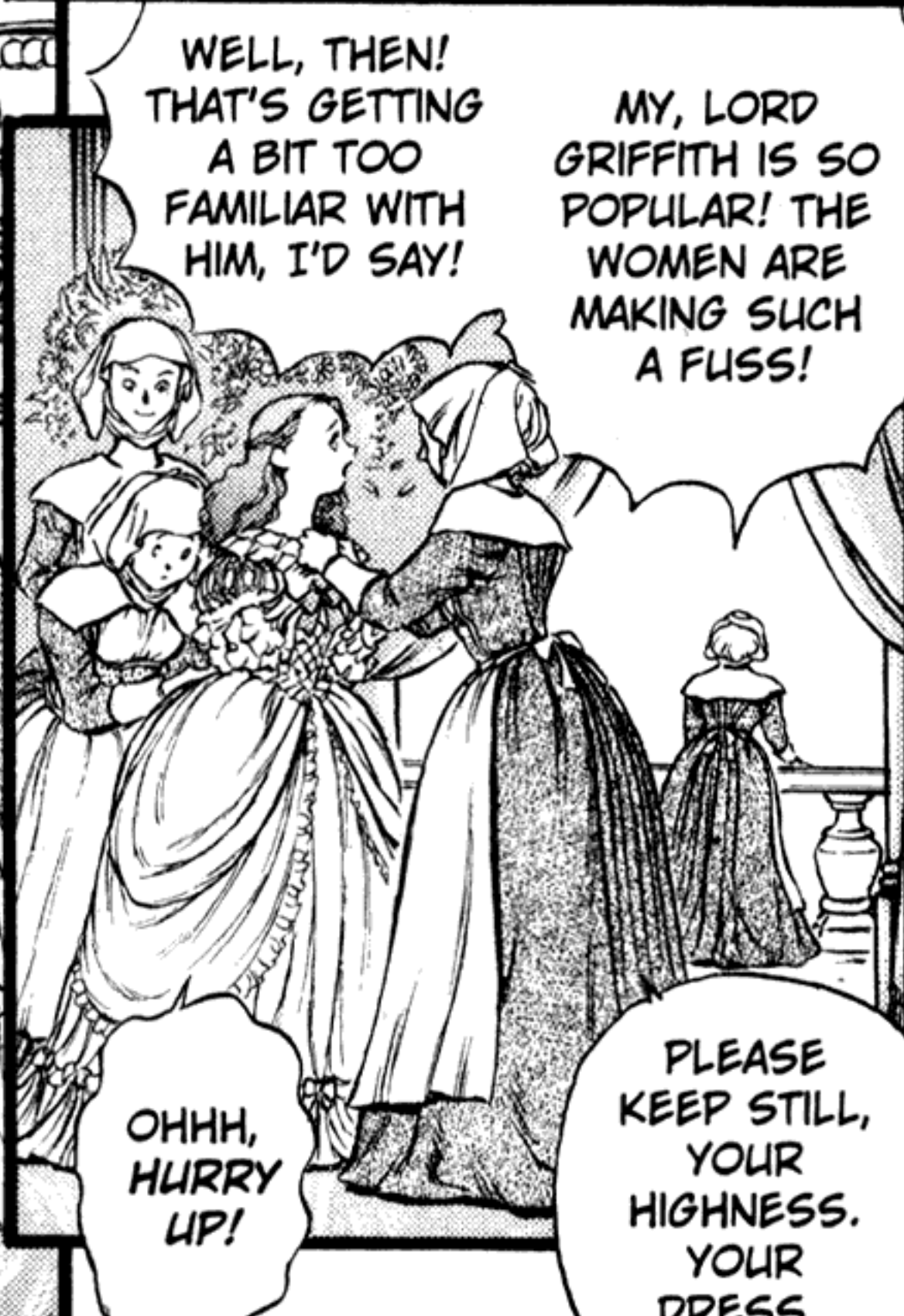
YOUR HIGHNESS, COME QUICK!

OHHHH! HERE HE COMES!



WELL, THEN! THAT'S GETTING A BIT TOO FAMILIAR WITH HIM, I'D SAY!

MY, LORD GRIFFITH IS SO POPULAR! THE WOMEN ARE MAKING SUCH A FUSS!



OHHH, HURRY UP!

PLEASE KEEP STILL, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOUR DRESS...



ワアアアアアアアアアア

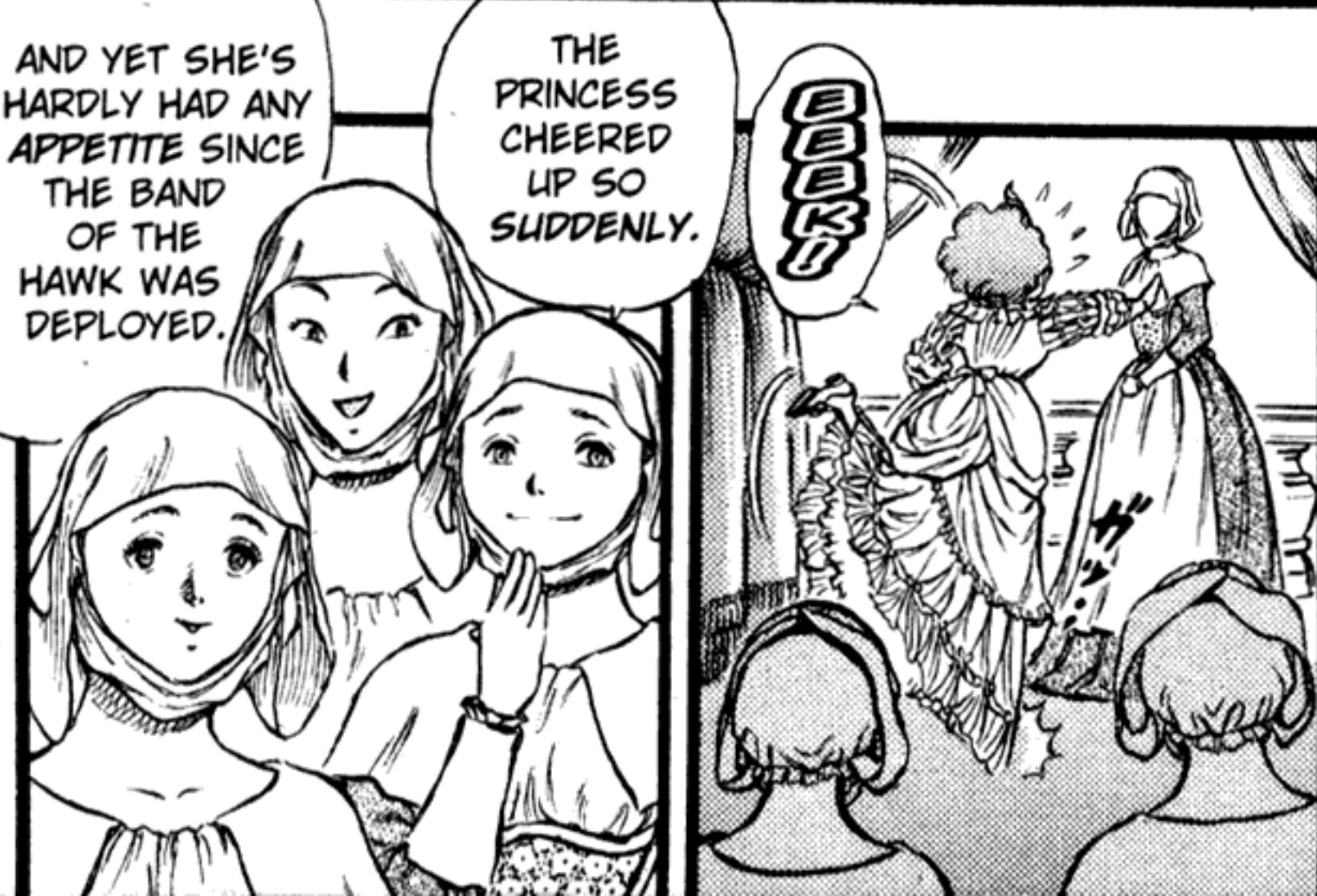
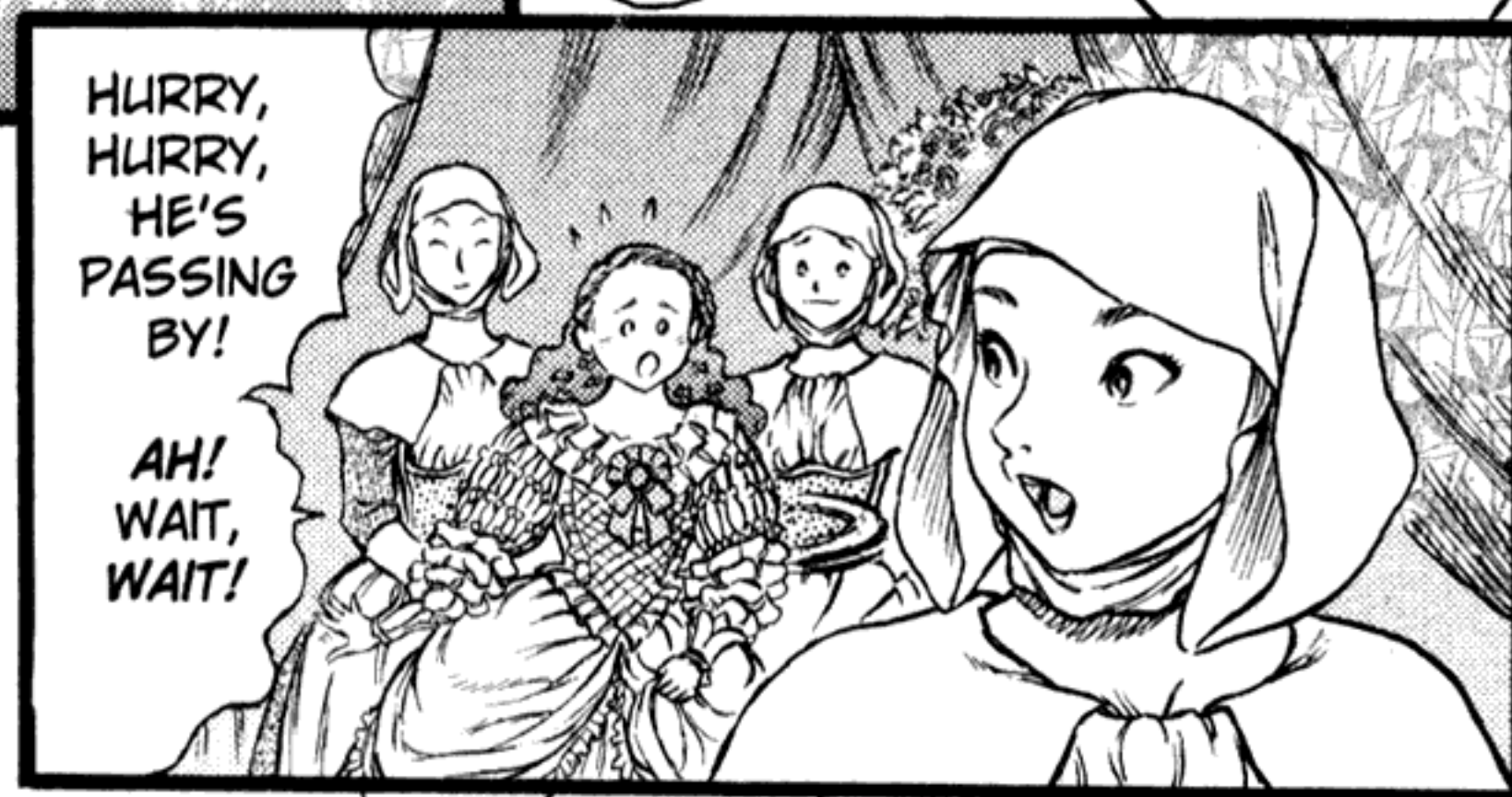
HURRY, HURRY, HE'S PASSING BY!

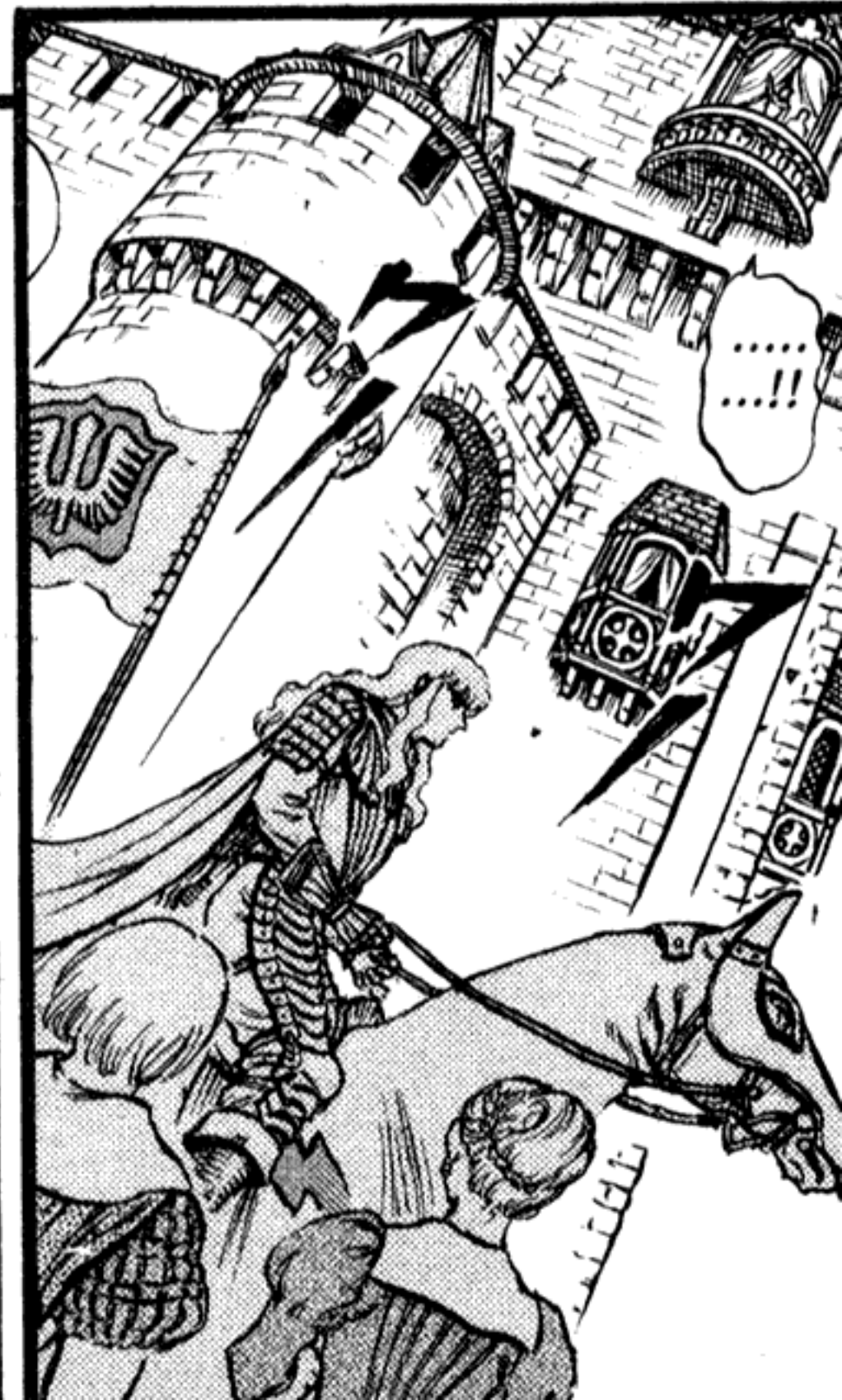
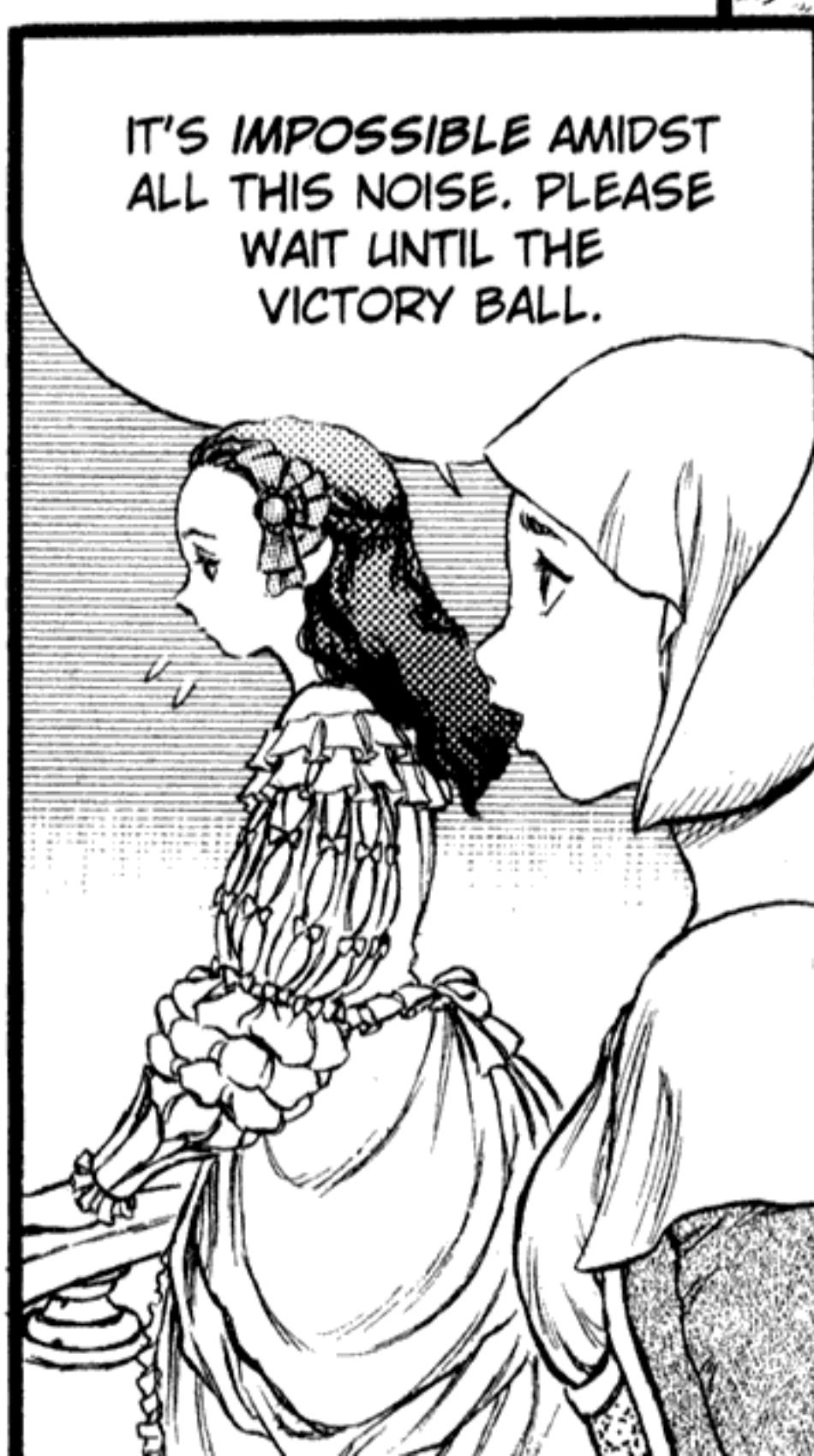
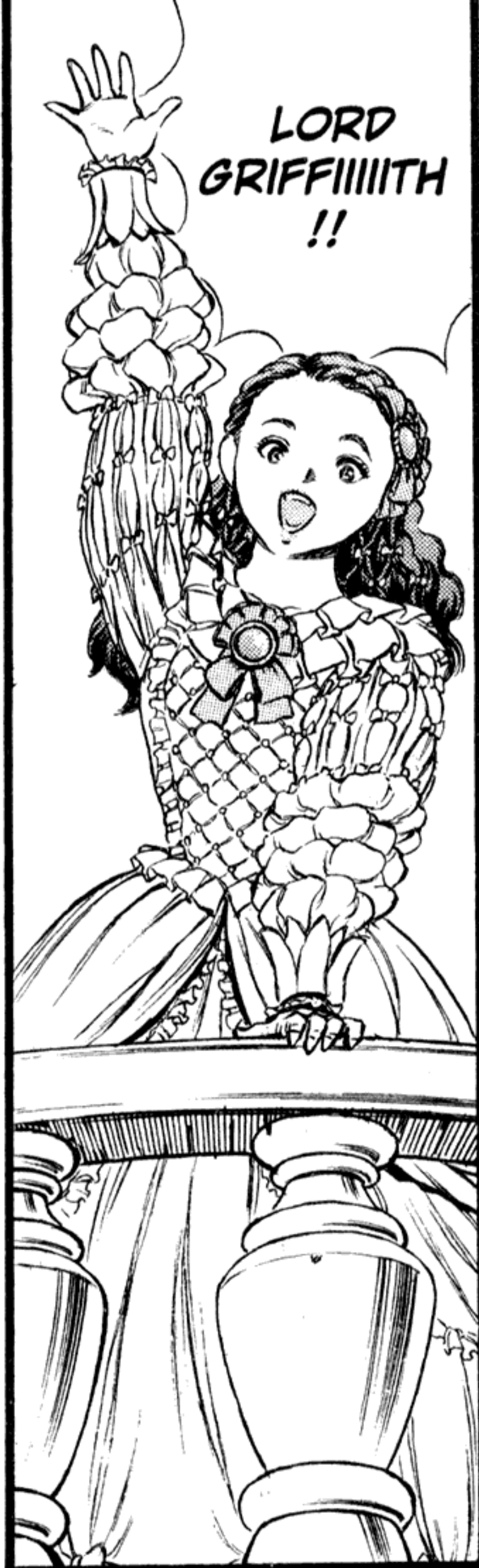
AH! WAIT, WAIT!

AND YET SHE'S HARDLY HAD ANY APPETITE SINCE THE BAND OF THE HAWK WAS DEPLOYED.

THE PRINCESS CHEERED UP SO SUDDENLY.

EEEE





-SIGH-...

.....

ALL IS
IN PLACE,
MAJESTY.

HOW
GOES
THE
PLAN?

...WE SHOULD ALL
HOLD A BANQUET.
A BANQUET IN
MEMORIAM OF HIM.

IF
EVERYTHING
GOES
WELL...



...TO
YOU,
SIR.

THIS
WAS AD-
DRESSED
...



!
WHAT
IS IT?

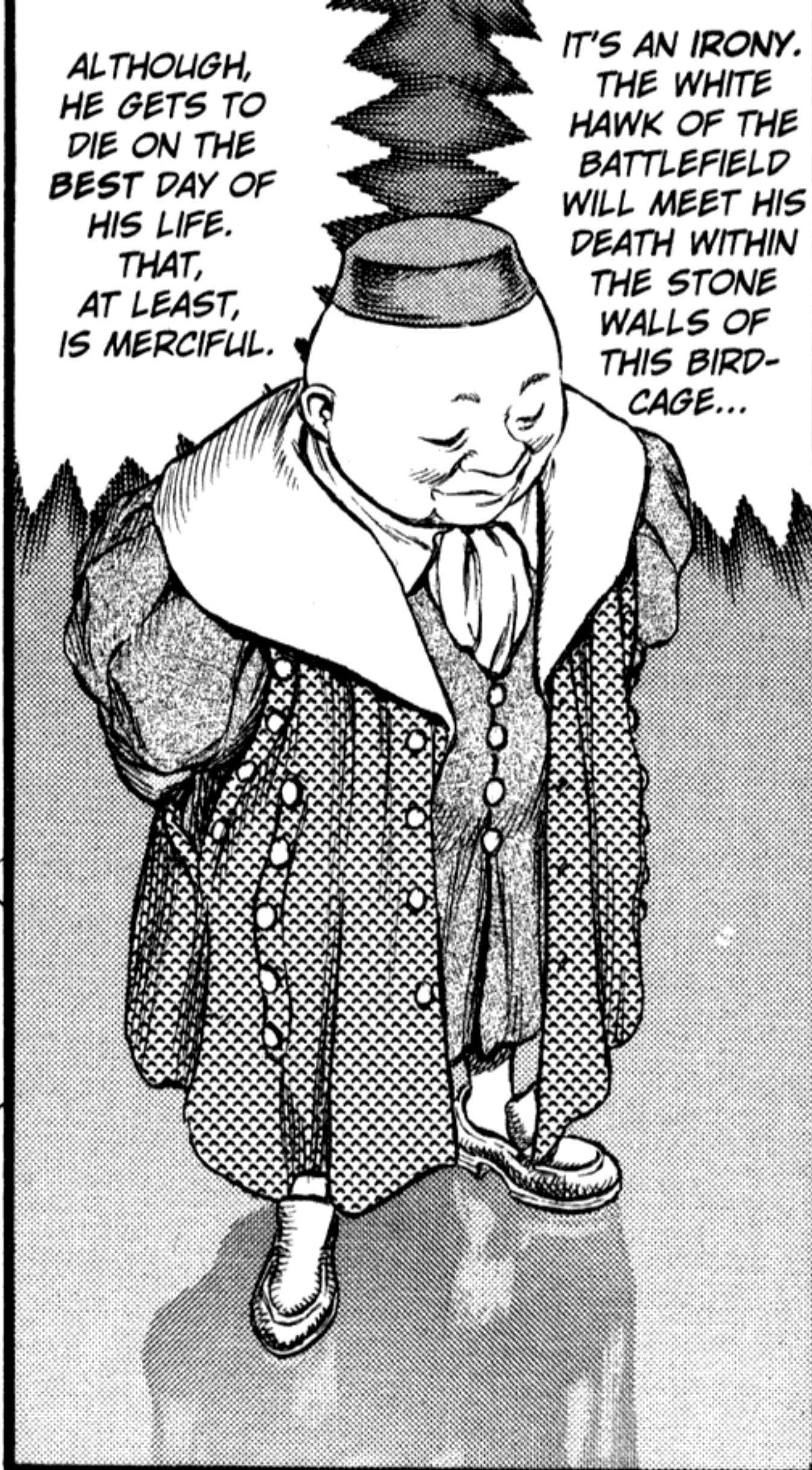
MINI-
STER
FOSS.



IT WAS SIMPLY
PASSED ON
TO ME BY
A LADY OF
THE COURT.

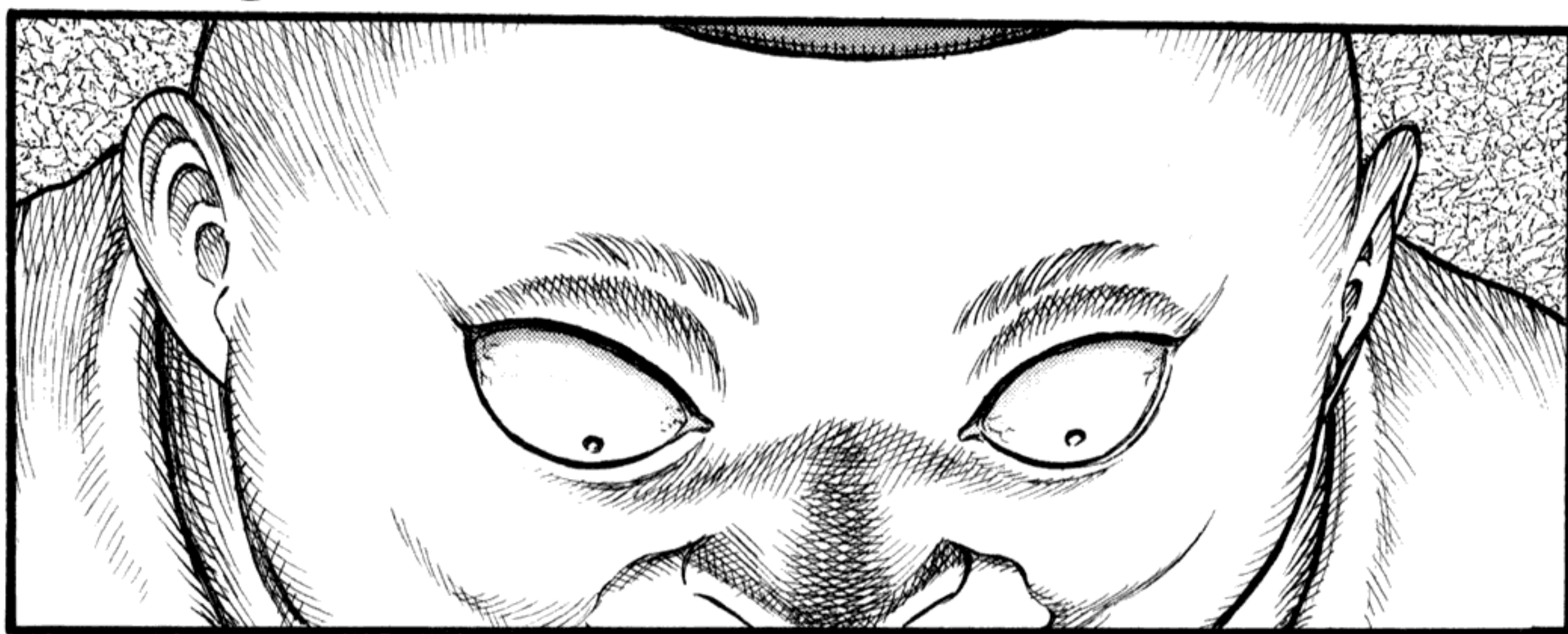
A LETTER?
FROM WHOM,
PRAY TELL.

THE
SENDER
IS UN-
KNOWN.



ALTHOUGH,
HE GETS TO
DIE ON THE
BEST DAY OF
HIS LIFE.
THAT,
AT LEAST,
IS MERCIFUL.

IT'S AN IRONY.
THE WHITE
HAWK OF THE
BATTLEFIELD
WILL MEET HIS
DEATH WITHIN
THE STONE
WALLS OF THIS BIRD-
CAGE...



WHA...
!!



YOU
BASTARD
...!

**YOU
BASTARD
!!**



WHY?!

HOW?!

HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN
...?!



N-
NO...

AH.

WHAT
IS IT,
MINISTER
FOSS?



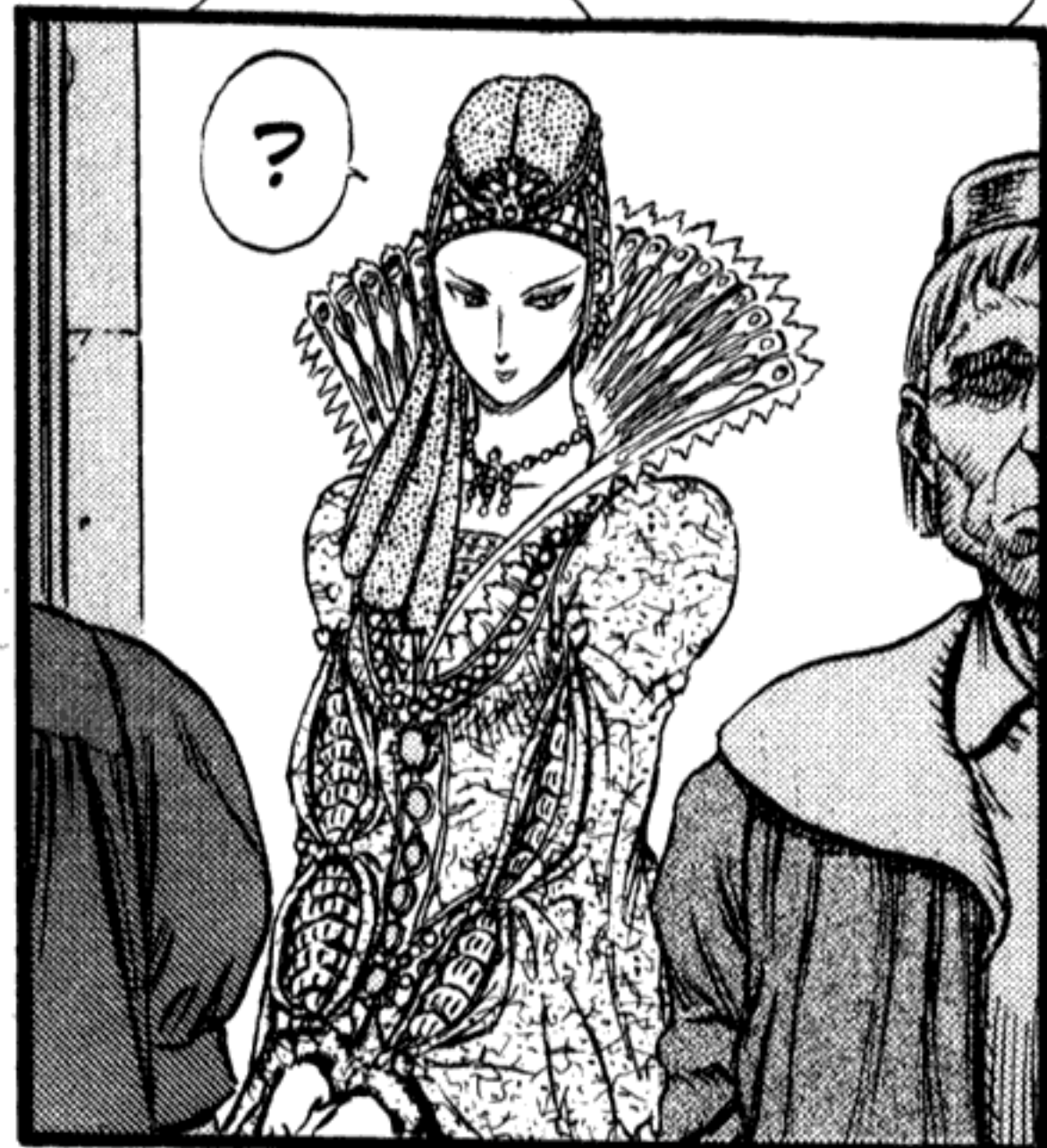
HA
HA...

IT...
IT IS
NOTHING
AT ALL.

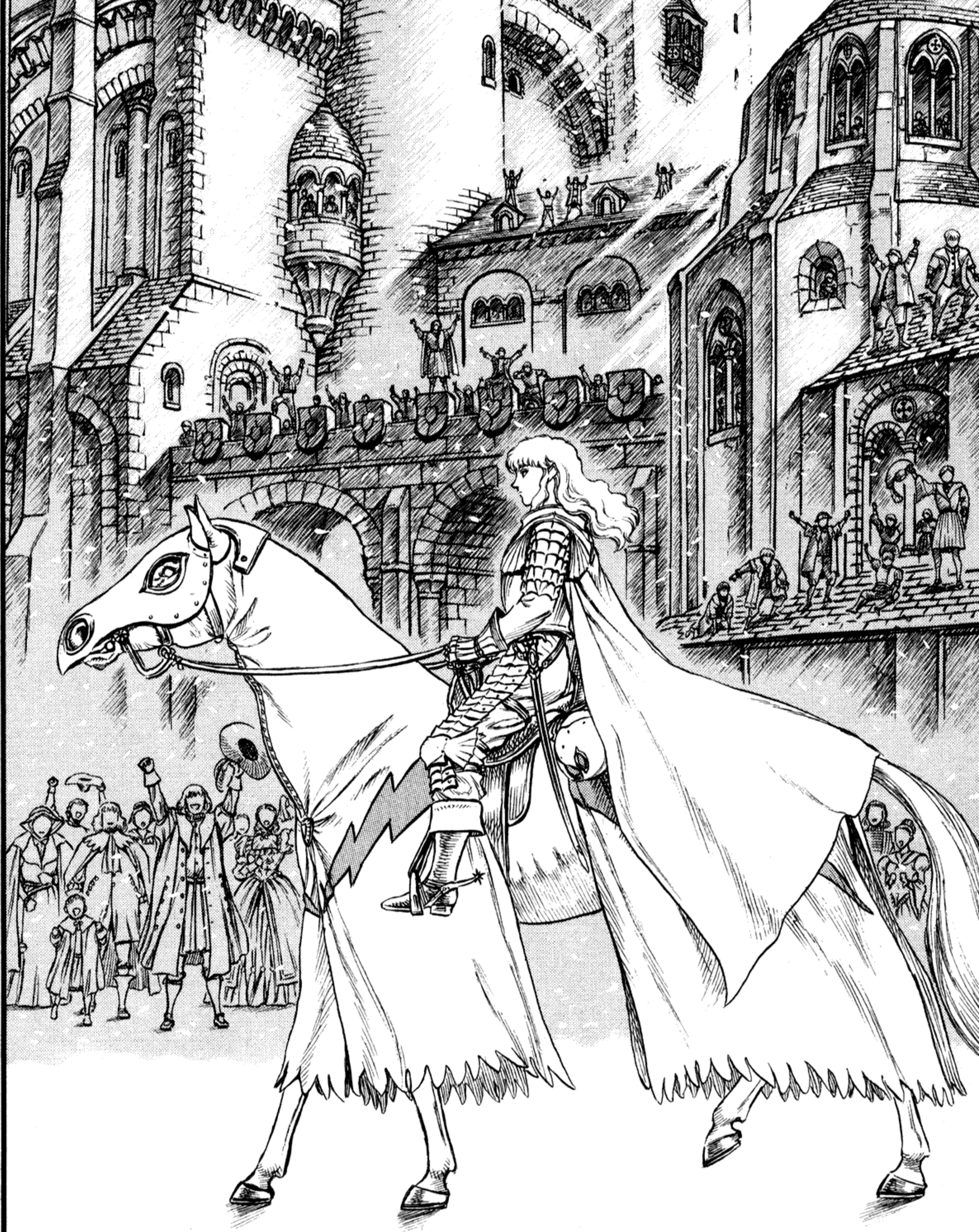


UNTIL
LATER.

MY APOLOGIES,
BUT A SMALL
MATTER HAS
ARISEN, SO I
MUST EXCUSE
MYSELF.

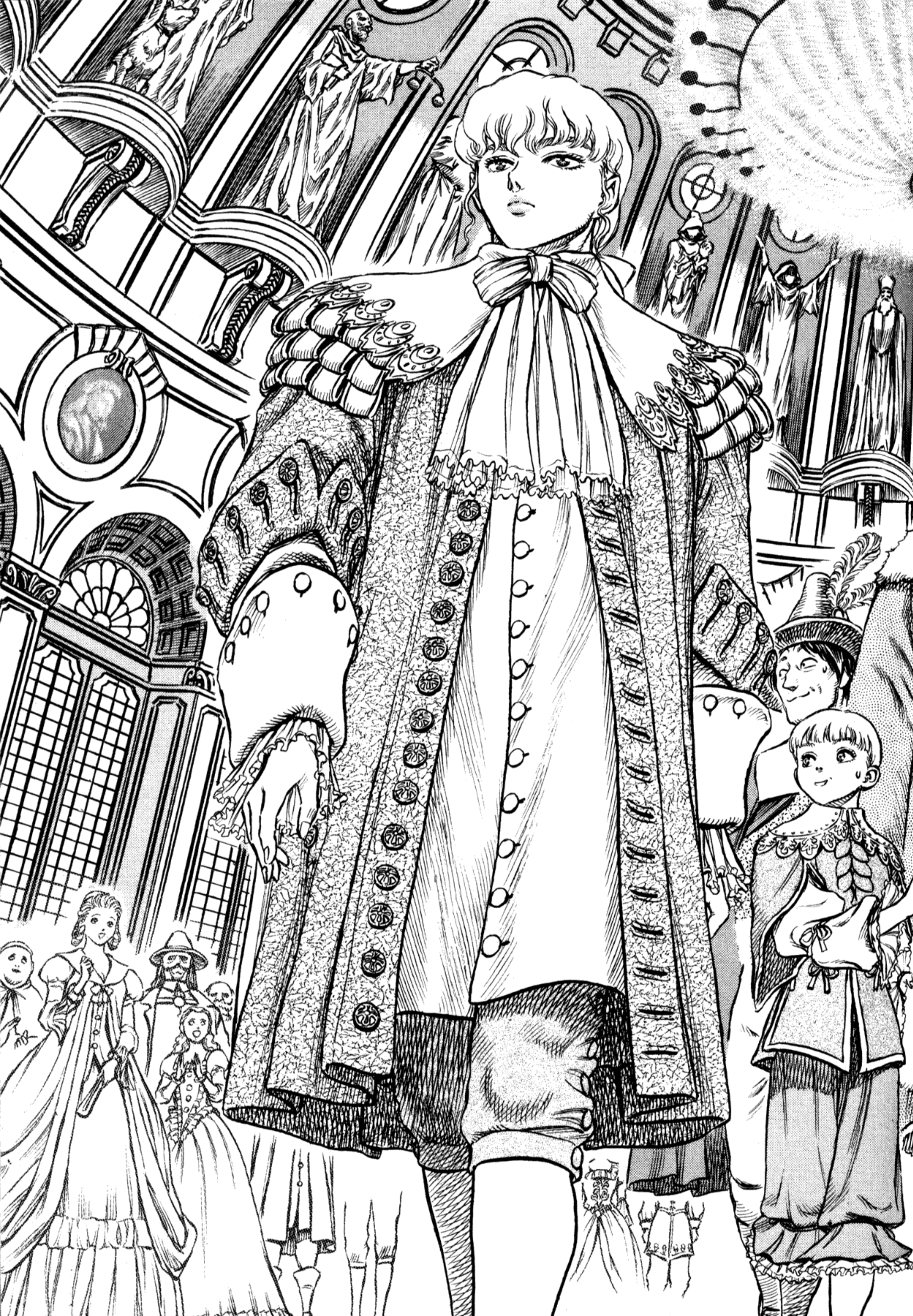


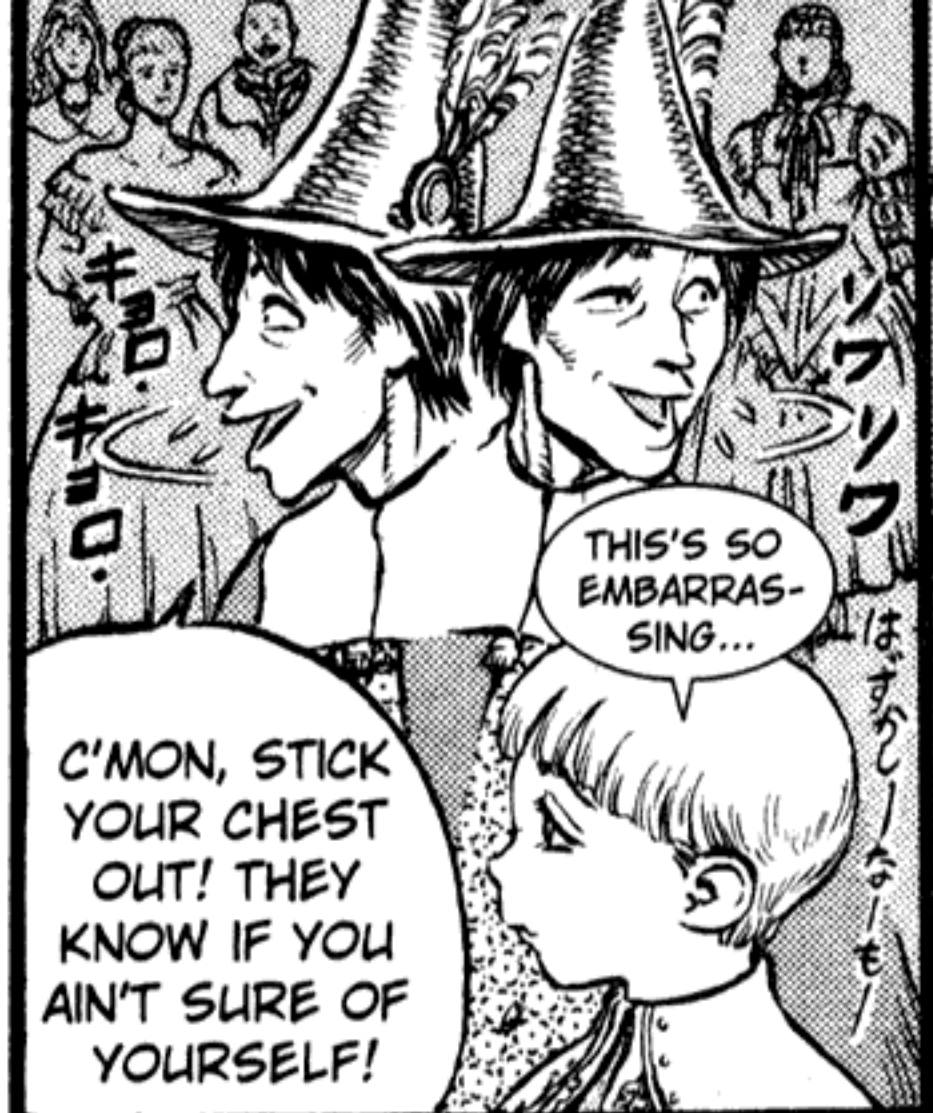
?



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: END







C'MON, STICK YOUR CHEST OUT! THEY KNOW IF YOU AIN'T SURE OF YOURSELF!

THIS'S SO EMBARRASSING...

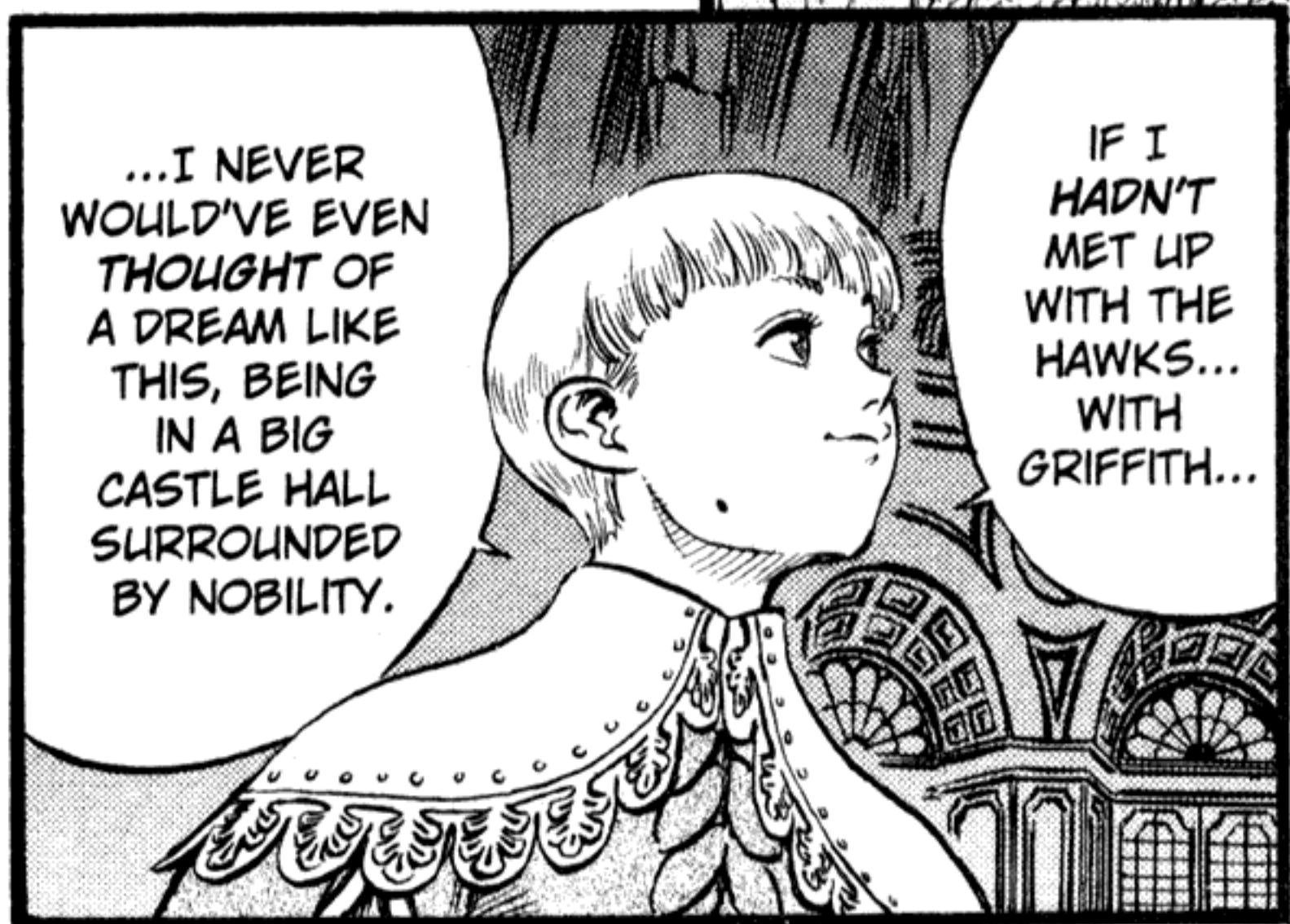
TALK ABOUT SHOWY...

AHA, SO THIS IS WHERE ALL THE TAX MONEY FROM THE MASSES ENDS UP.



...IT FEELS LIKE WE'VE FINALLY MADE IT HERE.

Y'KNOW WHAT, THOUGH ...

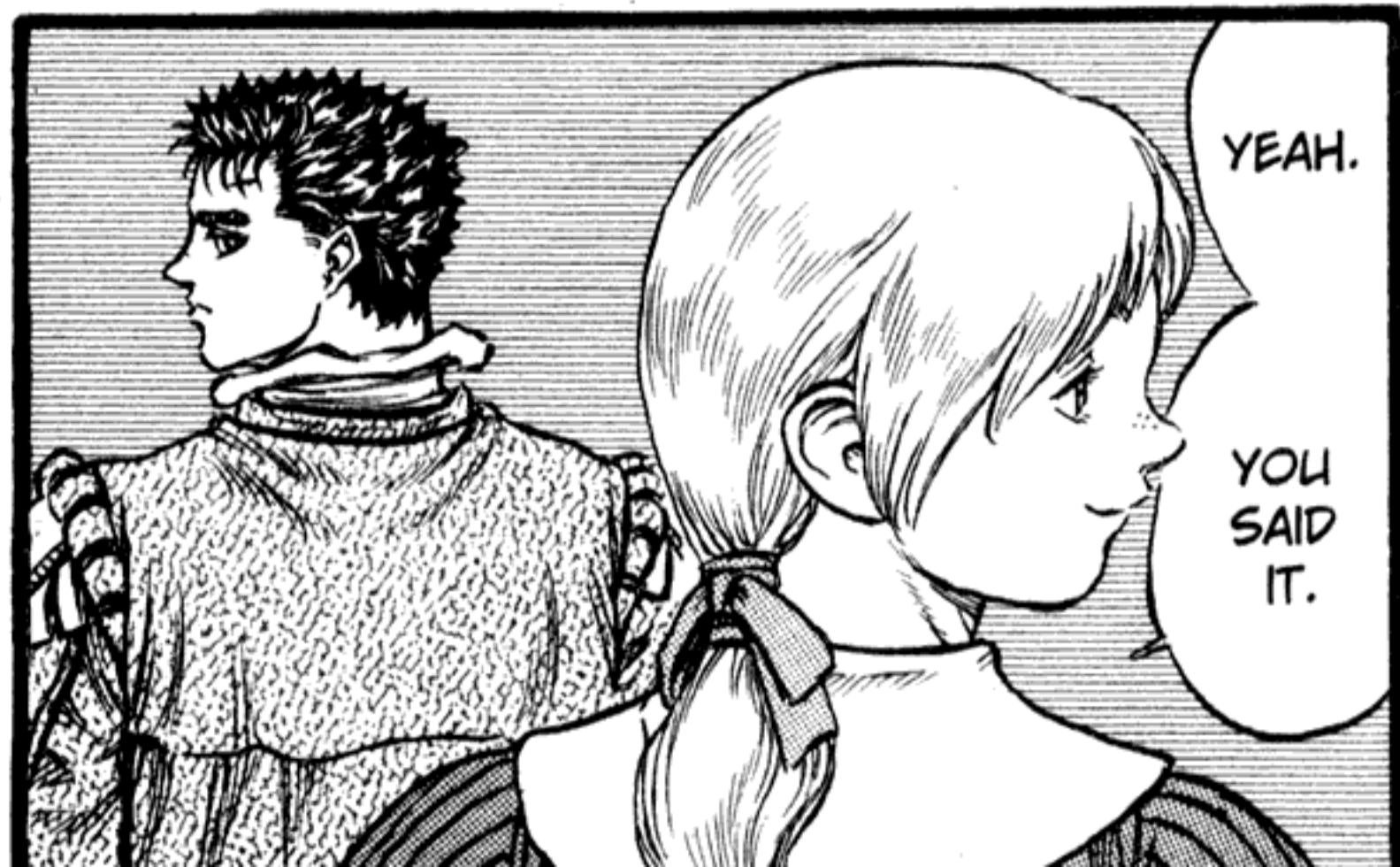


...I NEVER WOULD'VE EVEN THOUGHT OF A DREAM LIKE THIS, BEING IN A BIG CASTLE HALL SURROUNDED BY NOBILITY.

IF I HADN'T MET UP WITH THE HAWKS... WITH GRIFFITH...

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, WE REALLY HAVE. TO BE STANDING HERE IN A KIND OF PLACE I'VE ONLY HEARD OF IN FAIRY TALES...

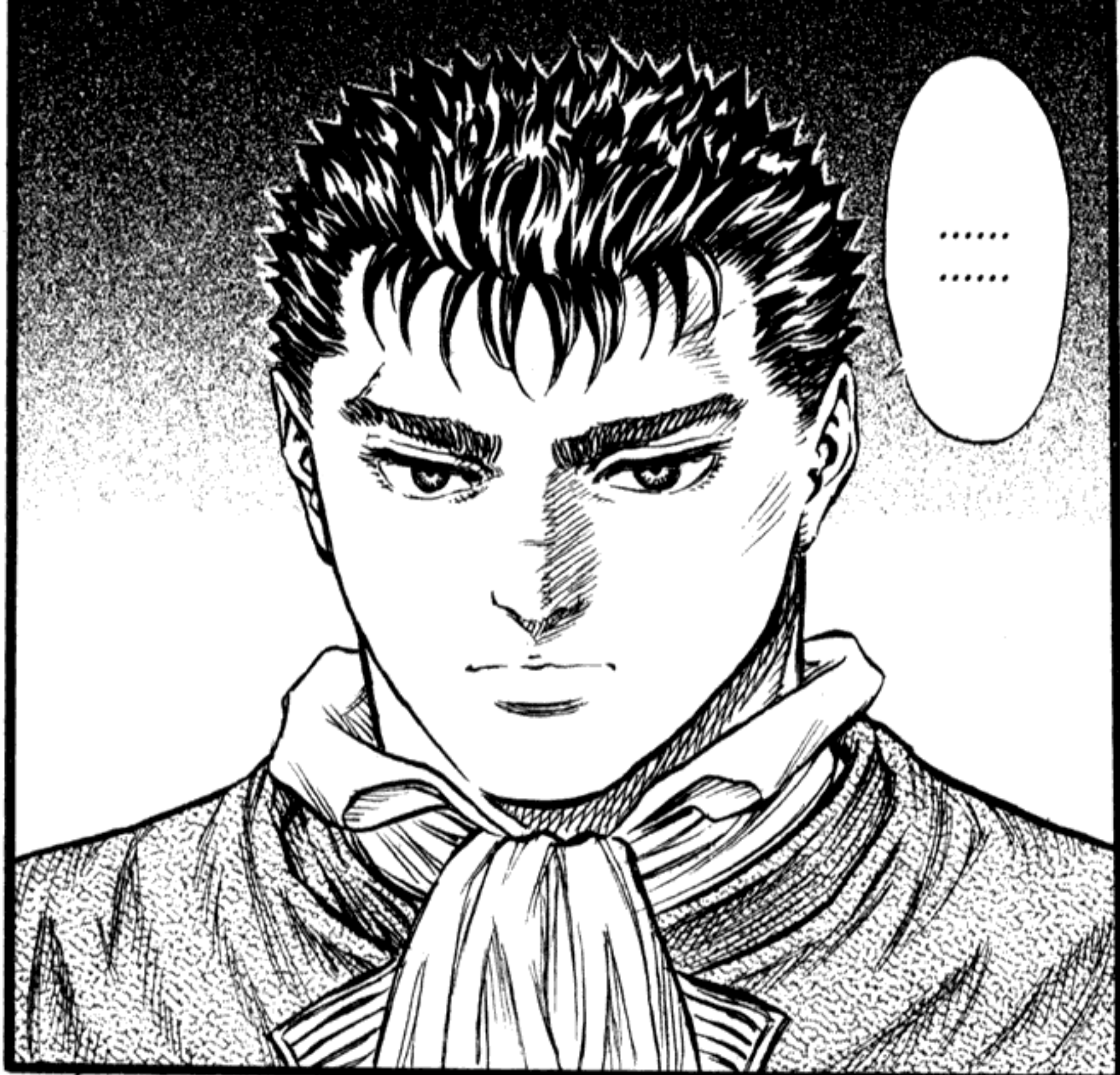
IT'S LIKE I'M DREAMING OR SOMETHING.



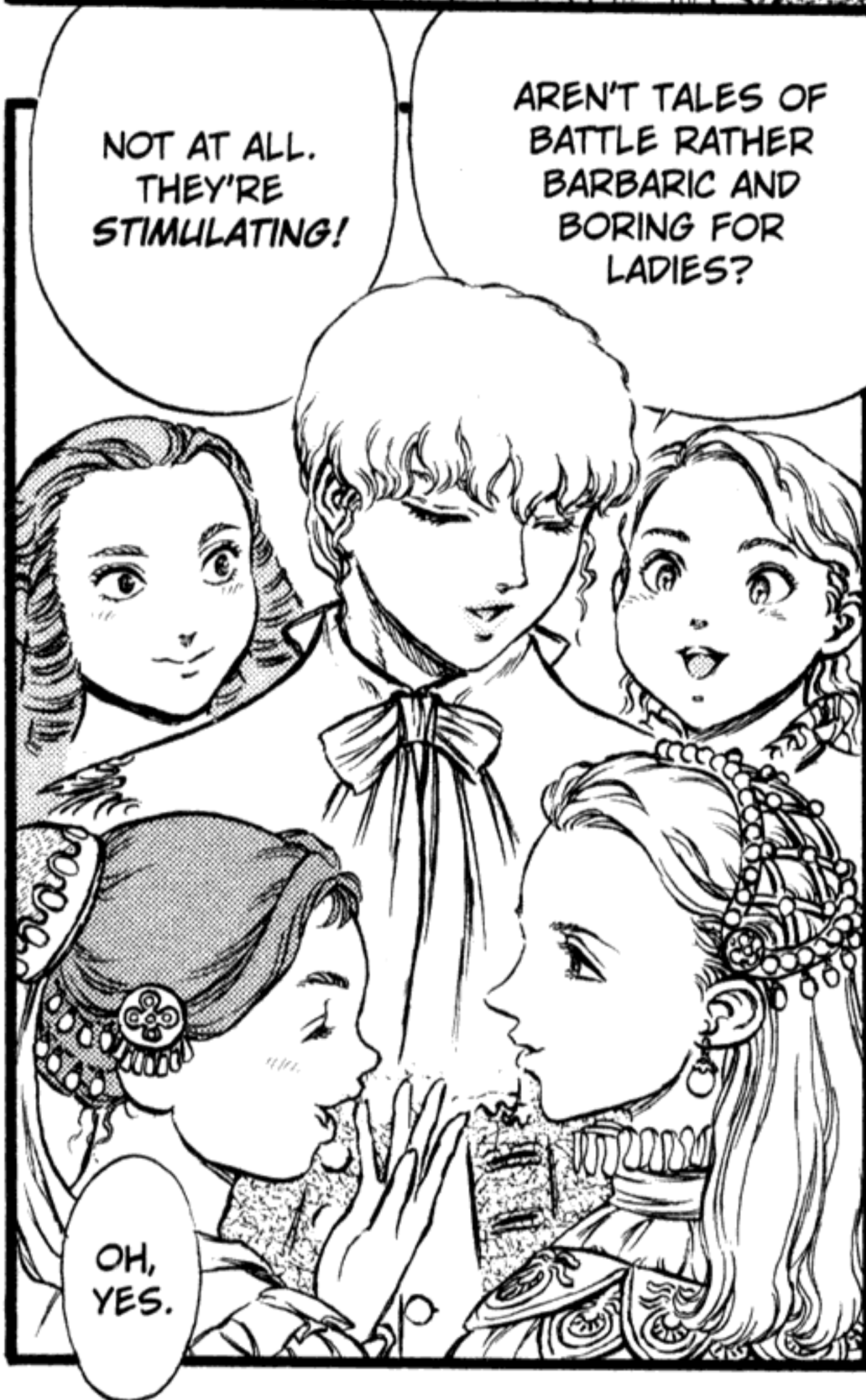
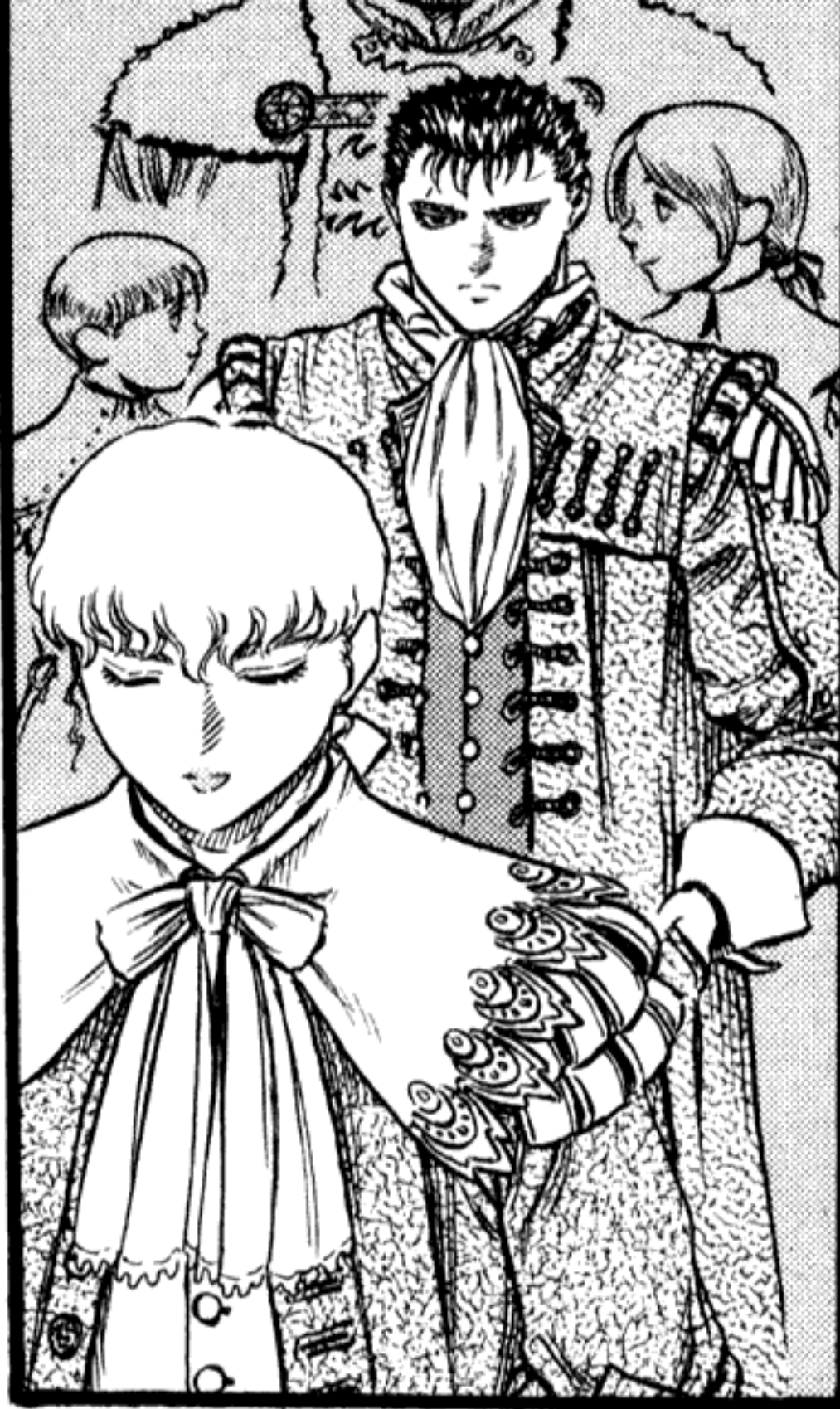
YEAH.

YOU SAID IT.





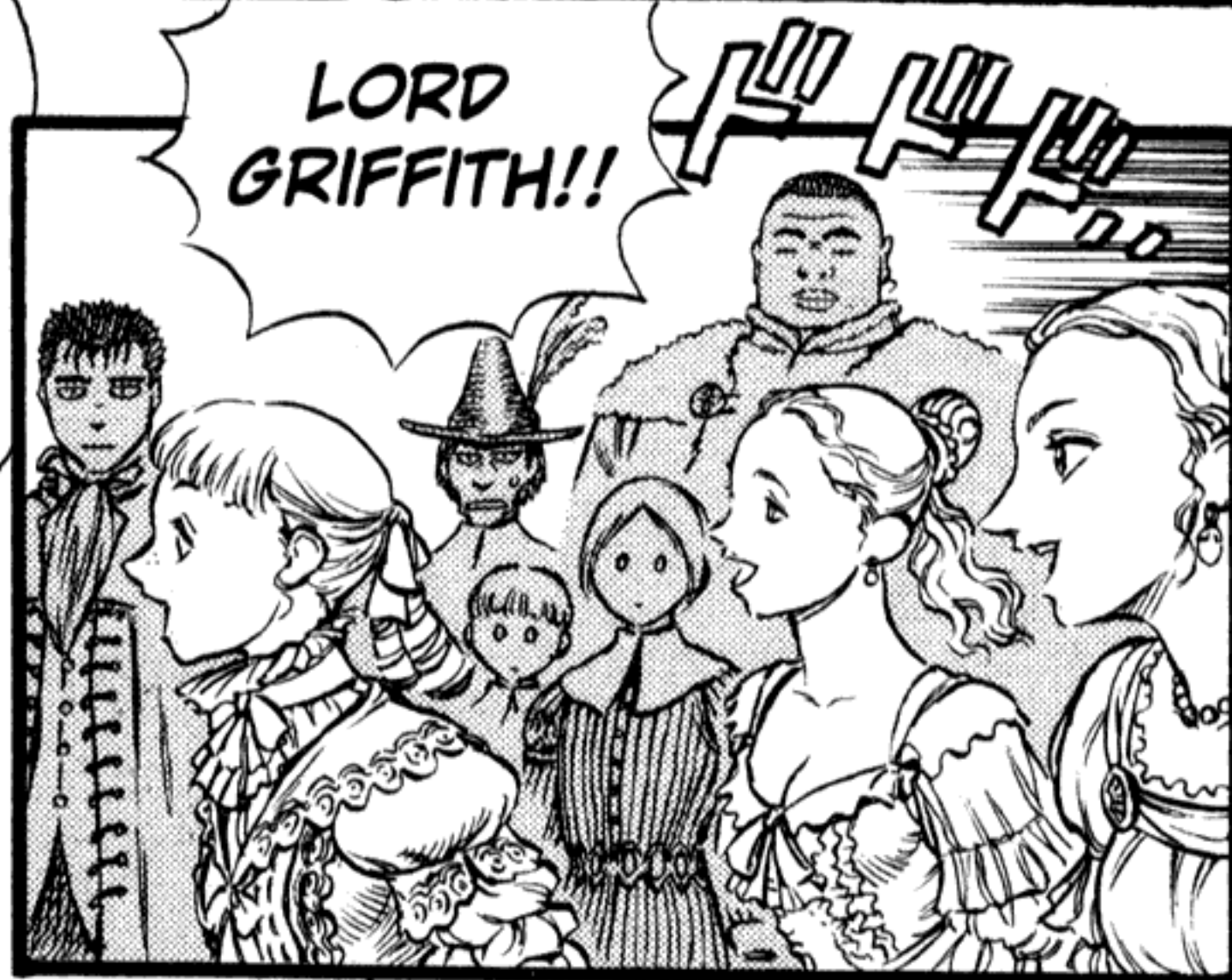
.....



NOT AT ALL.
THEY'RE
STIMULATING!

AREN'T TALES OF
BATTLE RATHER
BARBARIC AND
BORING FOR
LADIES?

OH,
YES.

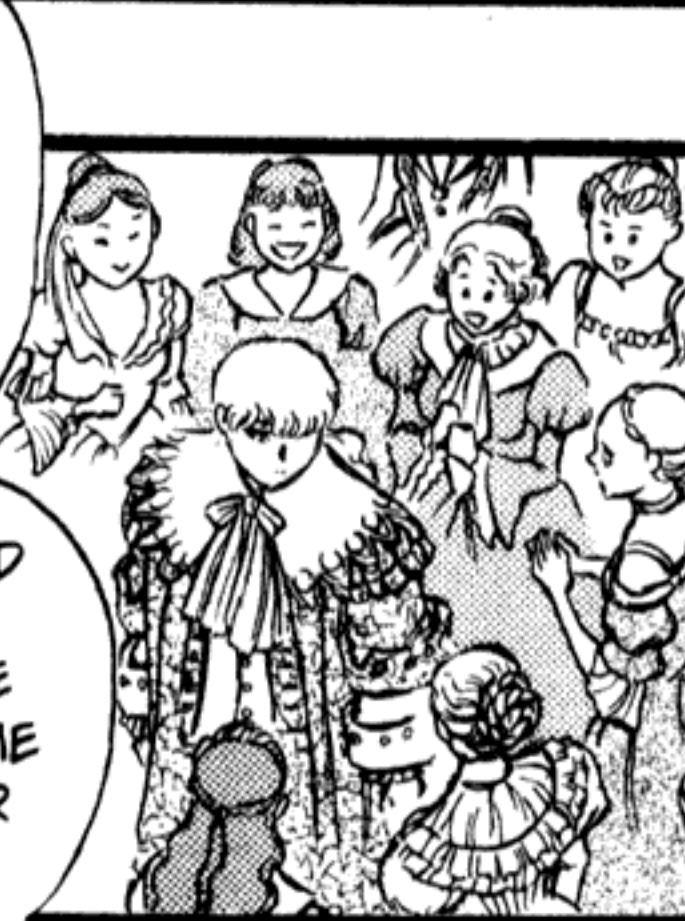


LORD
GRIFFITH!!

THEY SAY
THE BAND
OF THE HAWK
WAS ACTIVELY
INVOLVED AGAIN.
DO TELL MORE.

ME AS
WELL,
PLEASE!

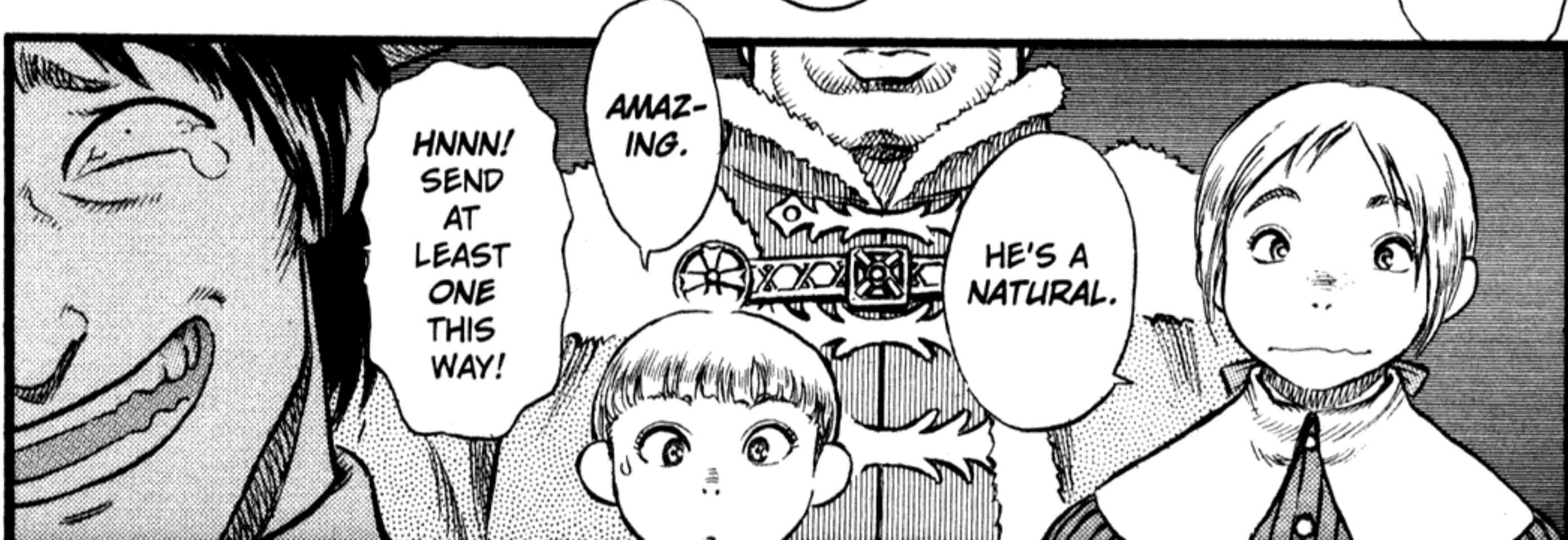
WOULD
YOU
DANCE
WITH ME
LATER
ON?



WEL-
COME
HOME!

THANK
GOOD-
NESS
YOU'RE
SAFE!

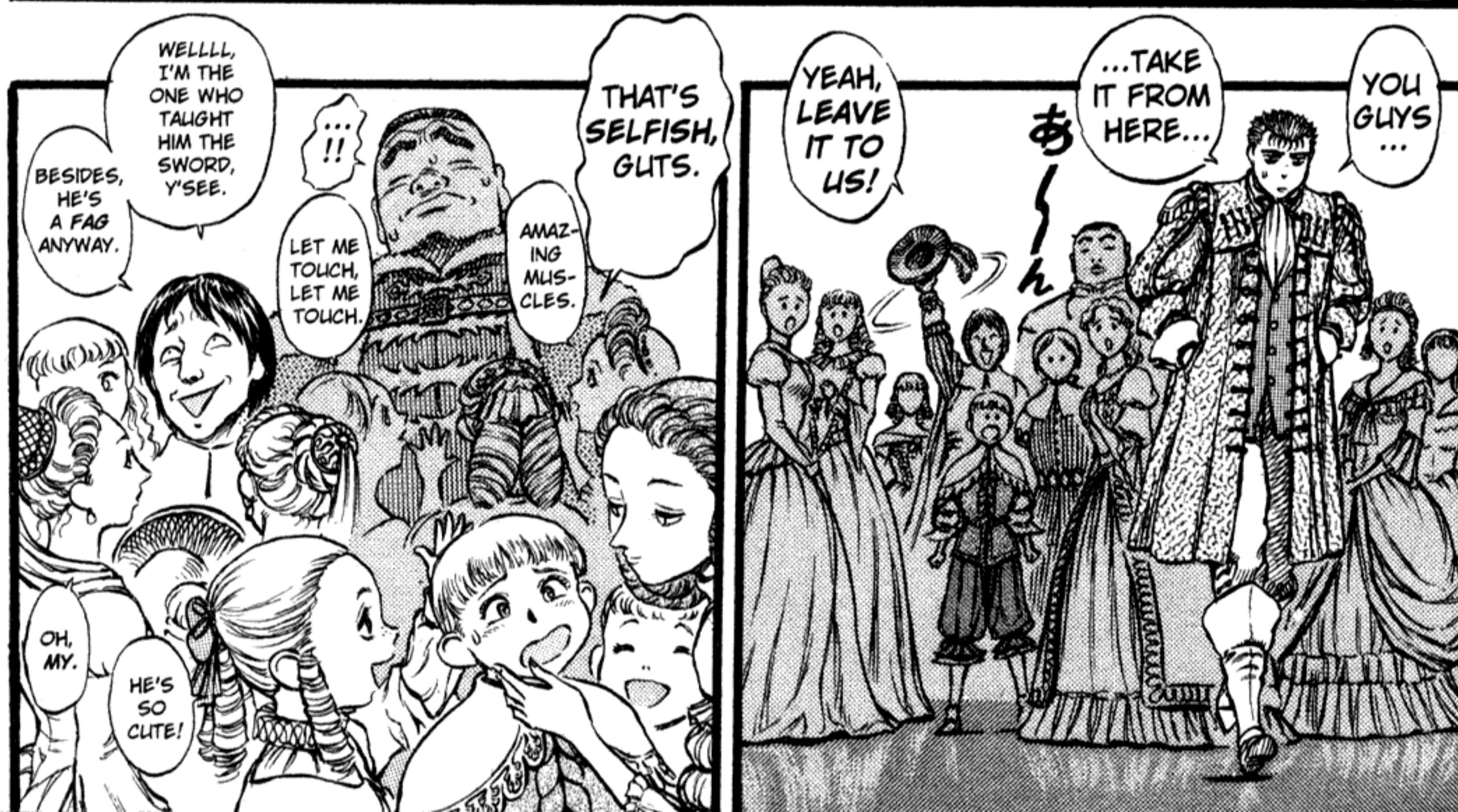
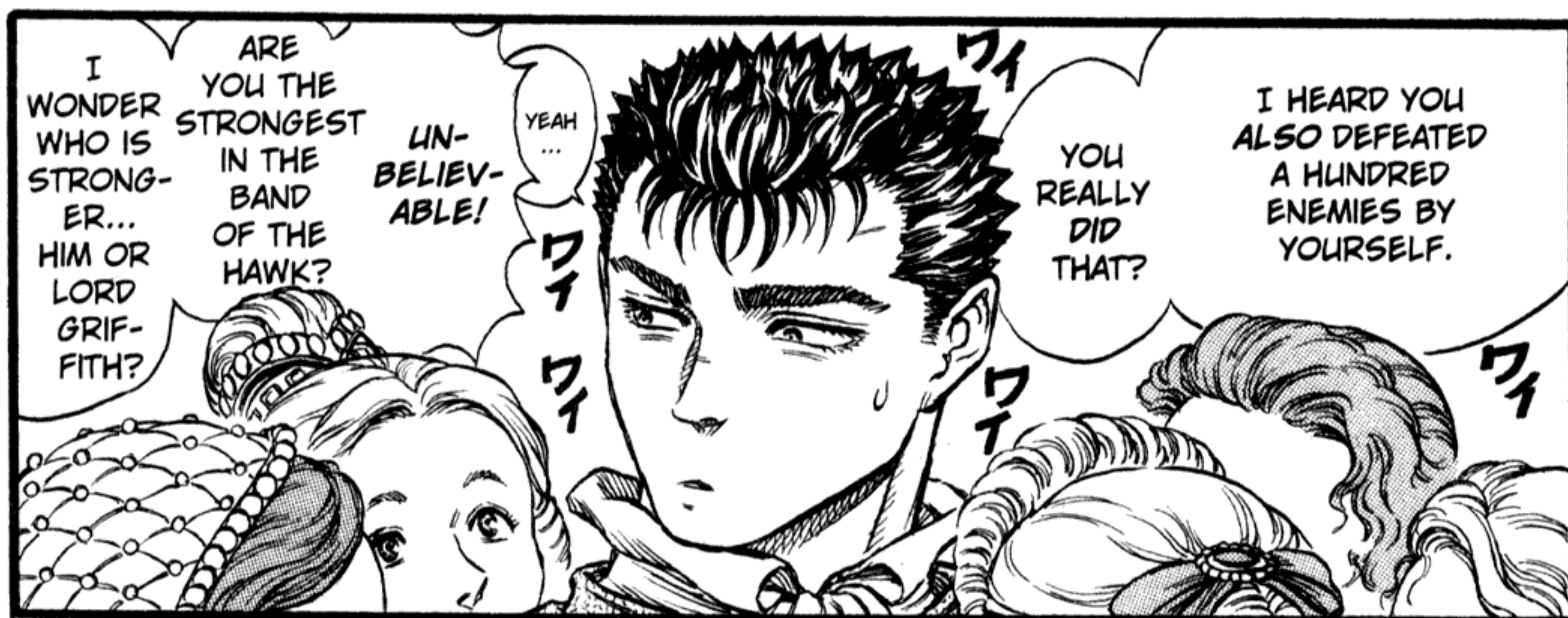
I WAS
SO
WORRIED.

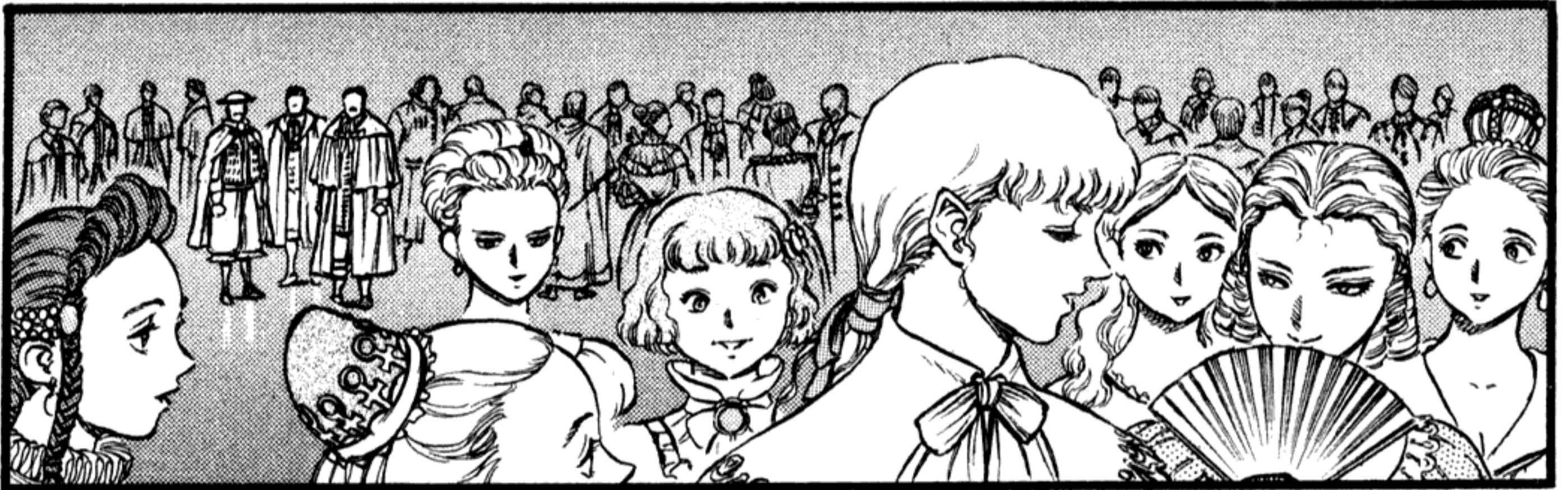


HNNN!
SEND
AT
LEAST
ONE
THIS
WAY!

AMAZ-
ING.

HE'S A
NATURAL.

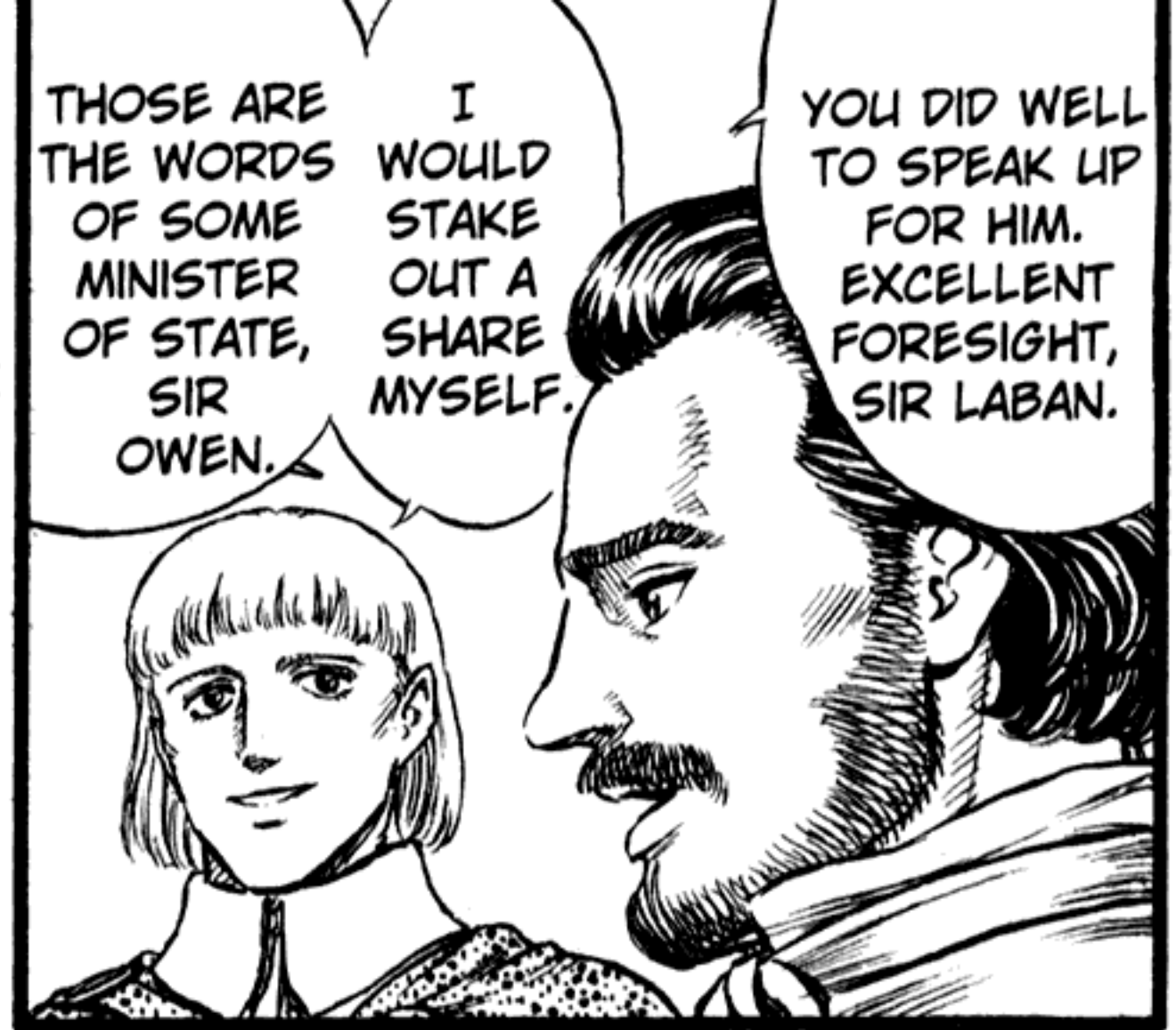






THE WAR WILL END. WOULD IT BE THAT THE PEACE WHICH WILL FOLLOW LASTS FOR TIME IMMEMORIAL...

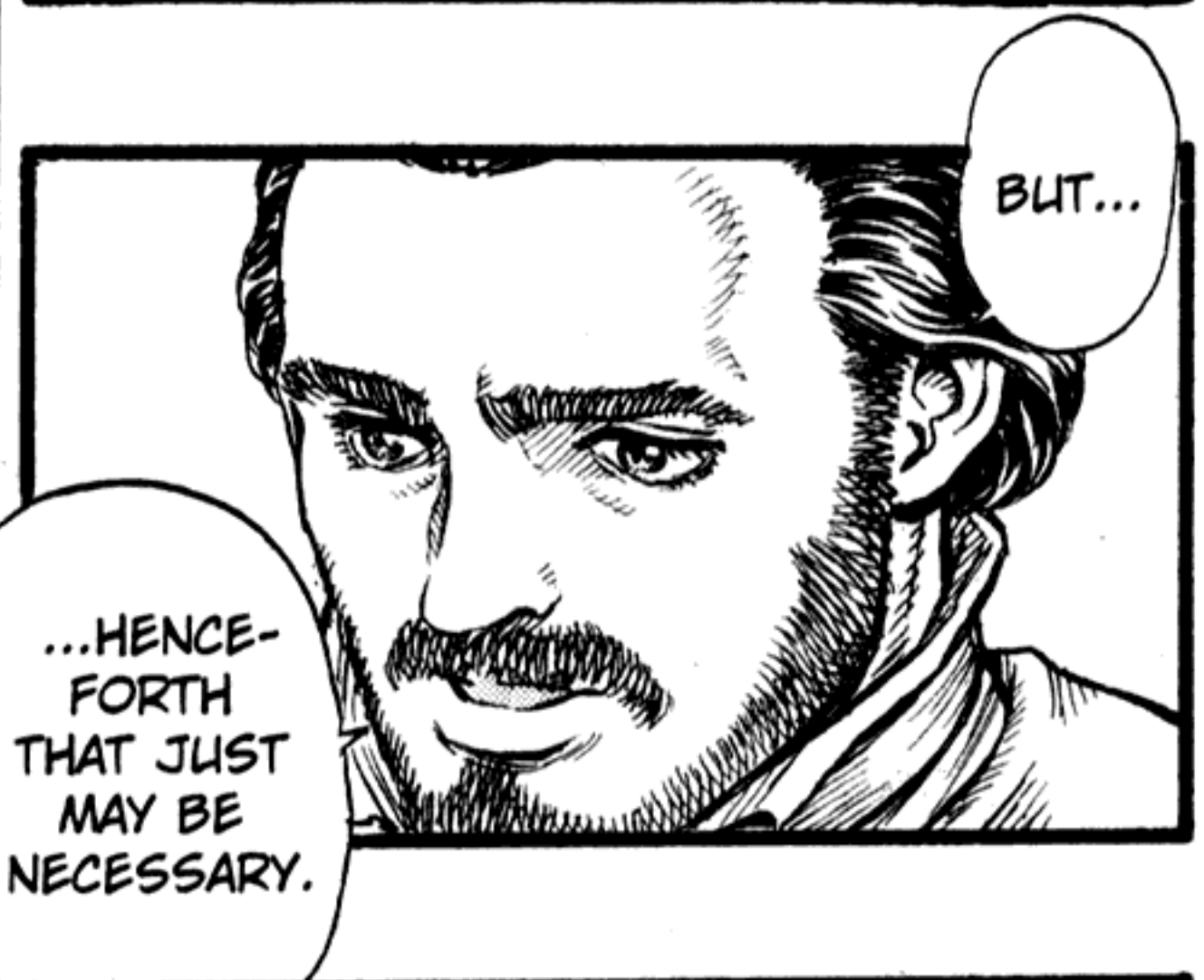
BUT FOR BETTER OR WORSE, IN A WORLD OF PEACE, WARRIORS LIKE US WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD MUST ALSO FIND A MEANS OF SURVIVAL WITHIN THIS RESPLENDENT CASTLE.



THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF SOME MINISTER OF STATE, SIR OWEN.

I WOULD STAKE OUT A SHARE MYSELF.

YOU DID WELL TO SPEAK UP FOR HIM. EXCELLENT FORESIGHT, SIR LABAN.



BUT...

...HENCE-FORTH THAT JUST MAY BE NECESSARY.

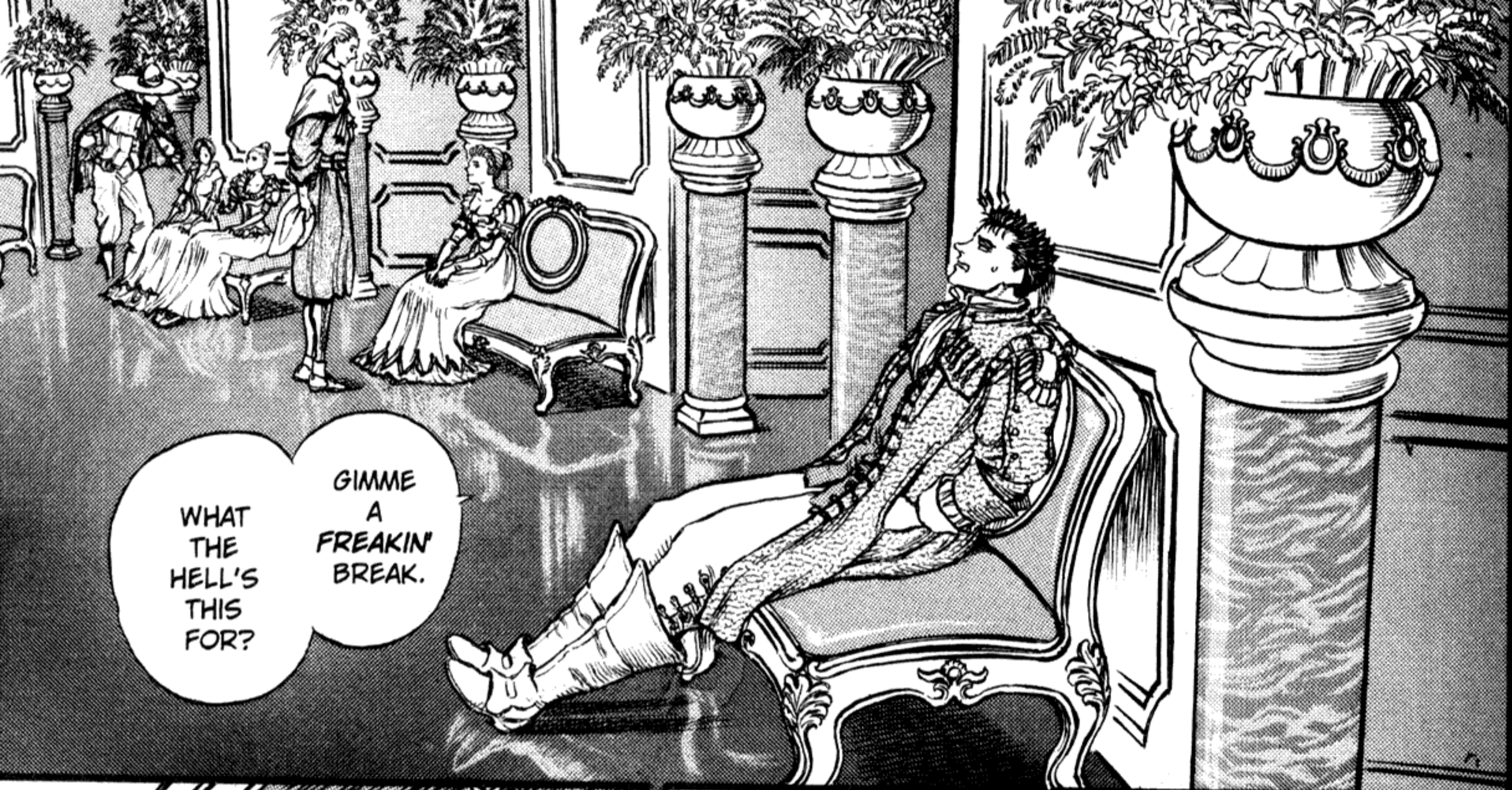


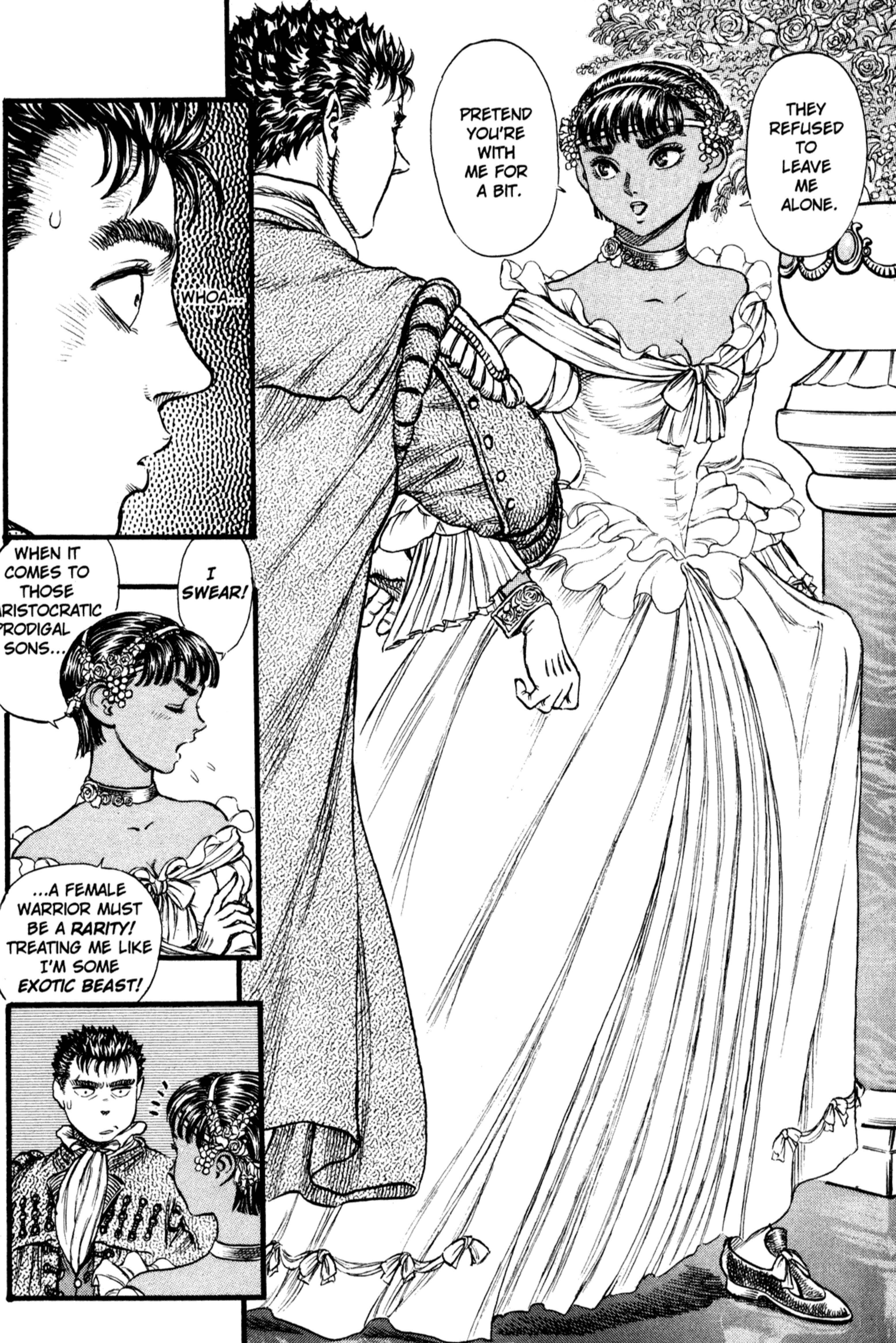
HE IS TOO CONSPICUOUS TO PROCEED PEACEFULLY AND UNEVENTFULLY INSIDE THE CASTLE.

THE MORE RADIANT THE LIGHT, THE DARKER THE SHADOWS FALL.



AND IRONICALLY ENOUGH, THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THE VERY MAN WHO BROUGHT ABOUT THAT PEACE.





PRETEND
YOU'RE
WITH
ME FOR
A BIT.

THEY
REFUSED
TO
LEAVE
ME
ALONE.

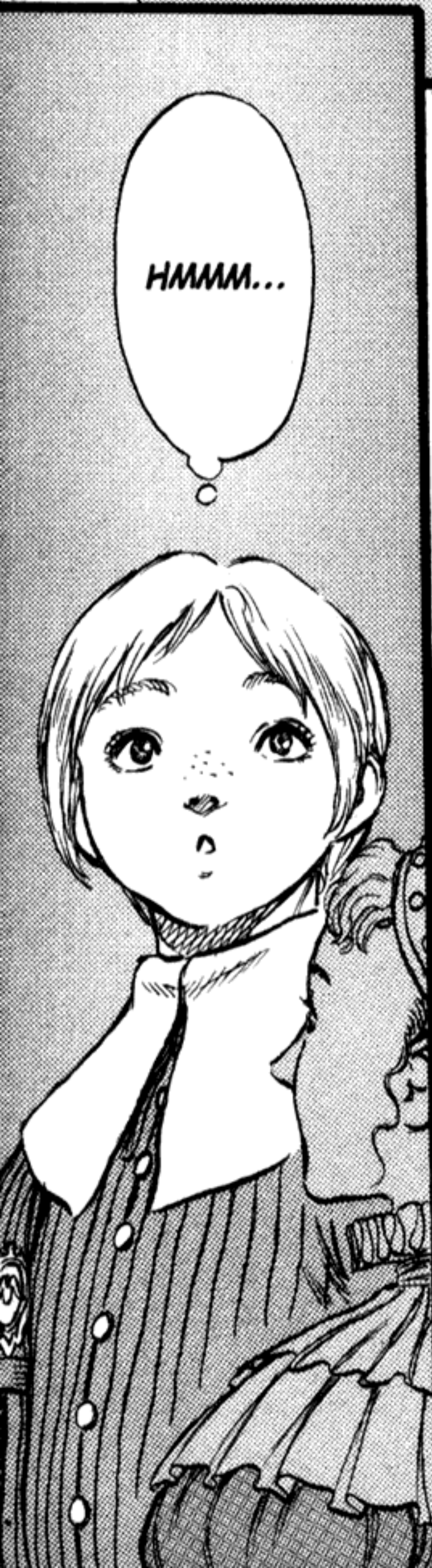
WHOA...

WHEN IT
COMES TO
THOSE
ARISTOCRATIC
PRODIGAL
SONS...

I
SWEAR!

...A FEMALE
WARRIOR MUST
BE A RARITY!
TREATING ME LIKE
I'M SOME
EXOTIC BEAST!





WHAT MADE
BIG SIS CASCA
THE DEMON GO
FLUTTERING
AROUND
LIKE THIS?

WHAT
THE HECK
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
THOUGH?

CUT
THE
"DE-
MON."

I ONLY DRESS
LIKE A MAN
BECAUSE IT'S
EASIER TO MOVE
AROUND! IT'S NOT
LIKE I DO IT
FOR KICKS!



YOU
SAID
IT.

→WHEWWWWW→.
I'M NO
GOOD AT THIS.
I'M MUCH MORE
COMFORTABLE
SWINGING A
SWORD!



...

DOES
IT
LOOK
WEIRD...
...YOU
THINK?

THINKING
ABOUT IT,
IT'S BEEN YEARS
SINCE I LAST
WORE A SKIRT...
AND I'M SO
MUCH MORE
MUSCULAR
NOW.

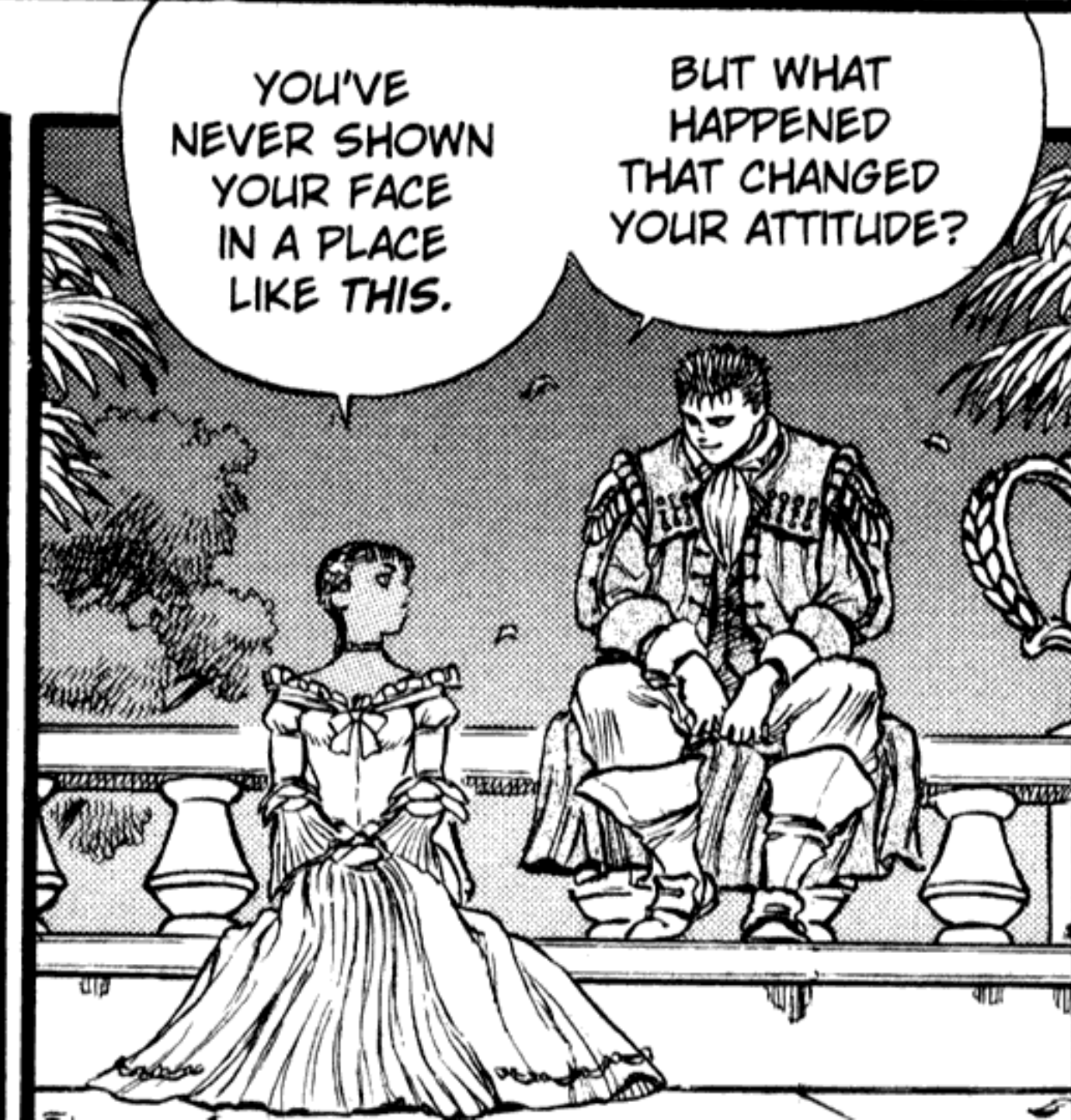
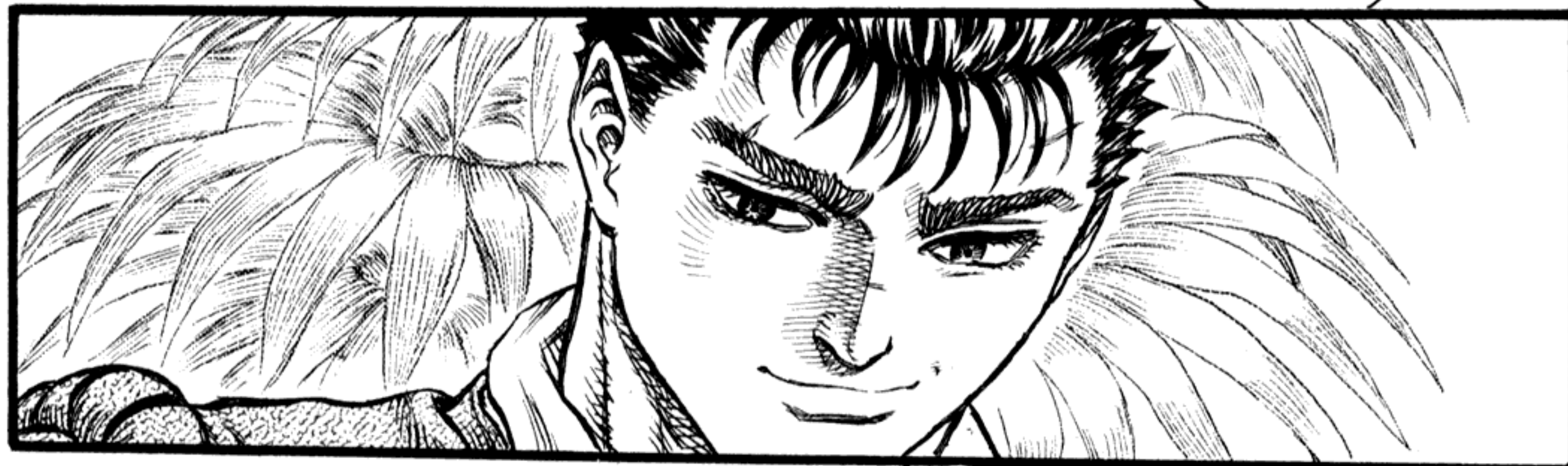
BUT I GUESS
I SHOULDN'T
TRY THINGS I'M
NOT USED TO.
REVEALING CLOTHES
LIKE THIS MAKE
ME FEEL I'LL
CATCH A COLD.



NAH,
NOT A
BIT.

YOU
LOOK
PRETTY
GOOD.







ALL THE THINGS HE'S MANAGED TO GET SO FAR...

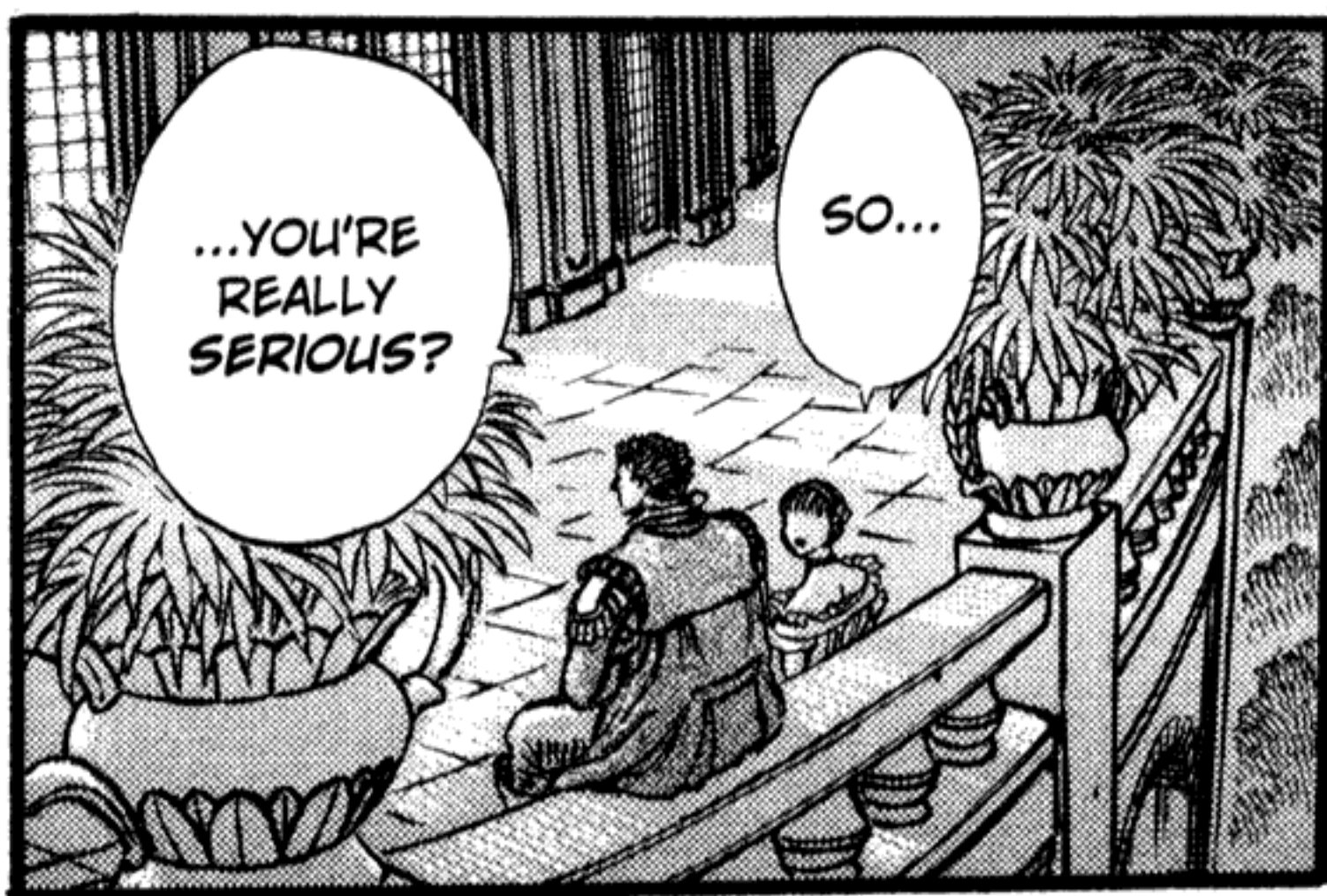
...AND ALL HE'S GOING TO TRY TO GET FROM HERE ON OUT...

...I THOUGHT I'D COME SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.



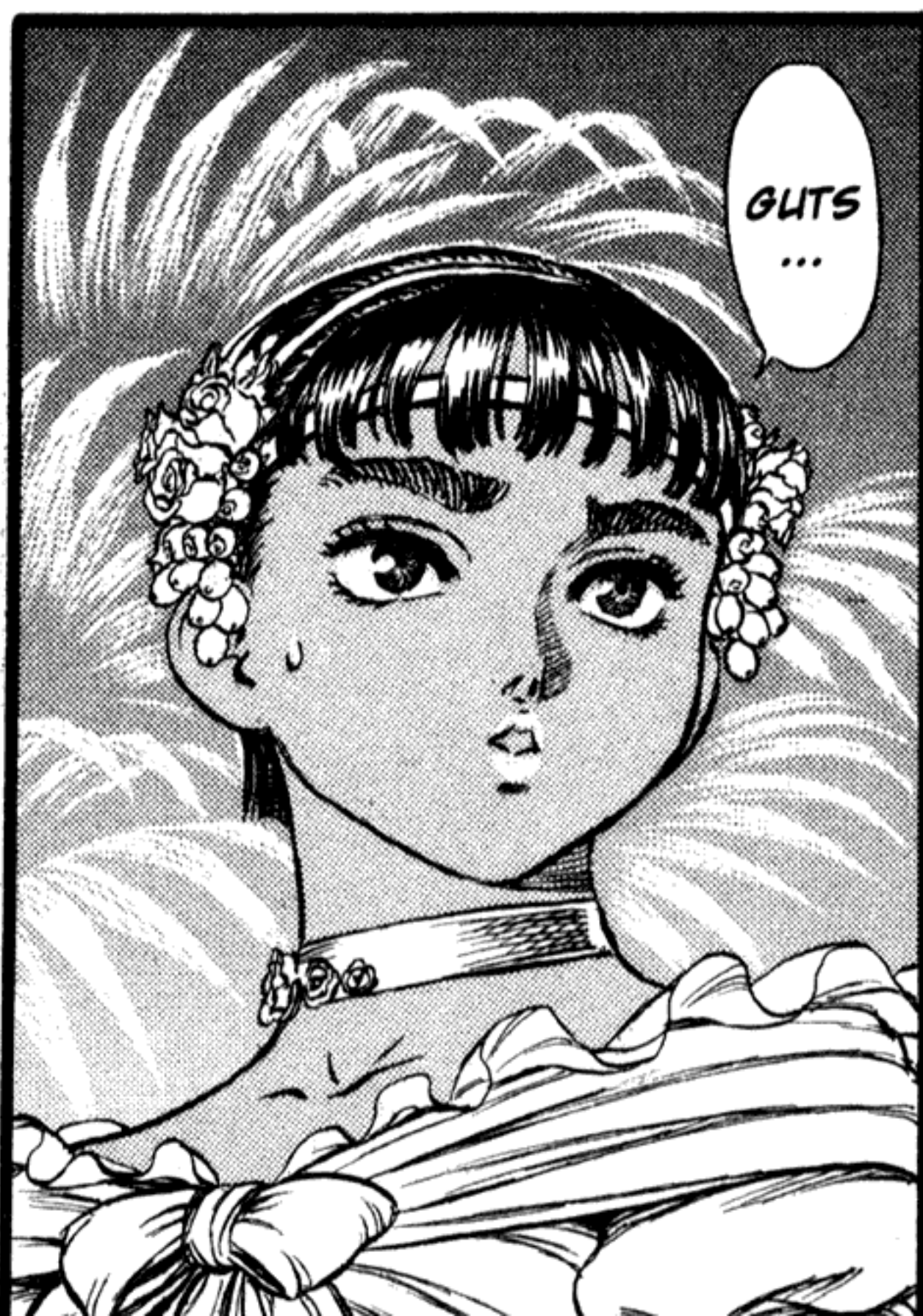
...THESE PAST THREE YEARS SINCE I MET YOU ALL...

EVERYTHING GRIFFITH, MYSELF, AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS DONE...

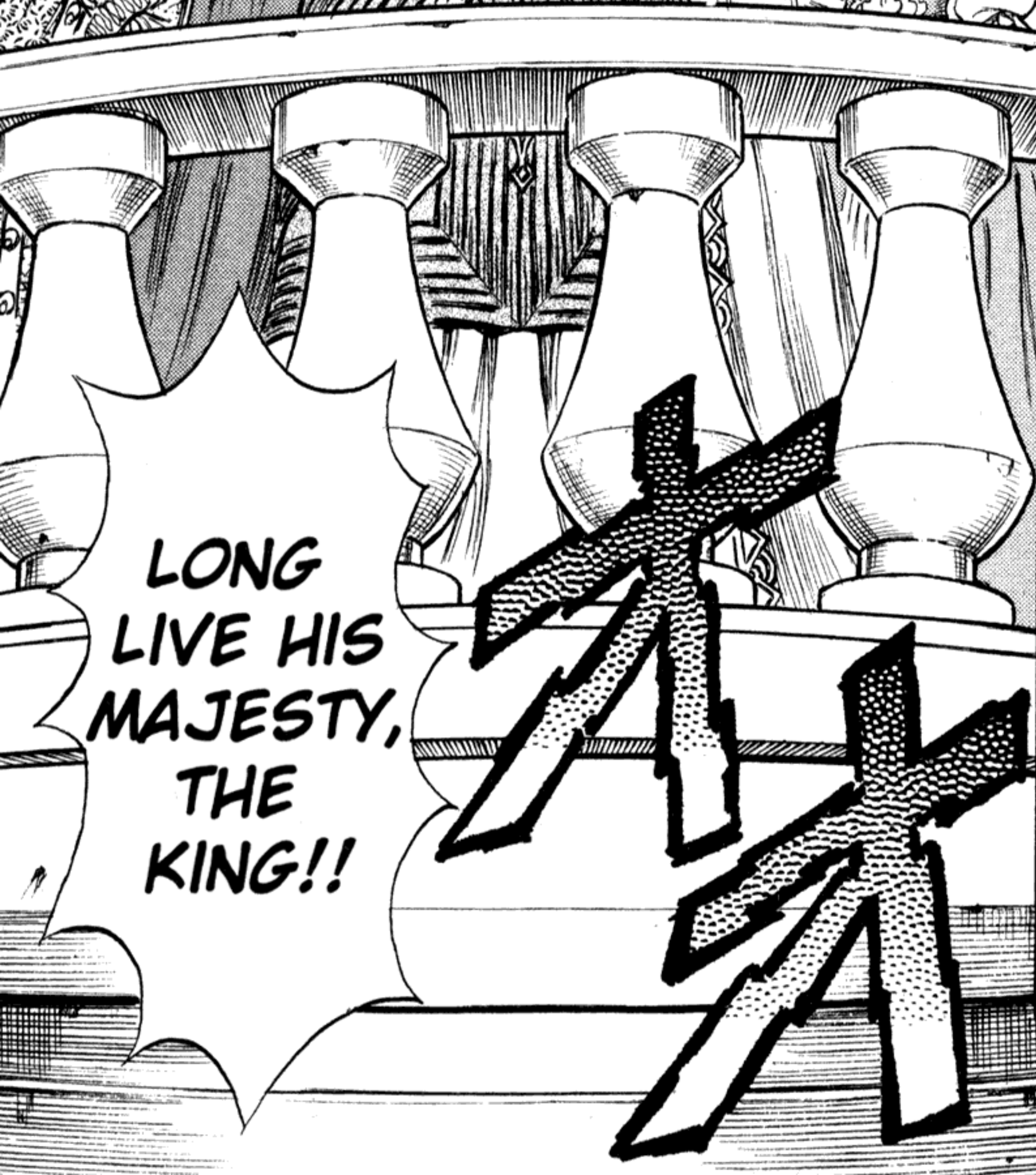
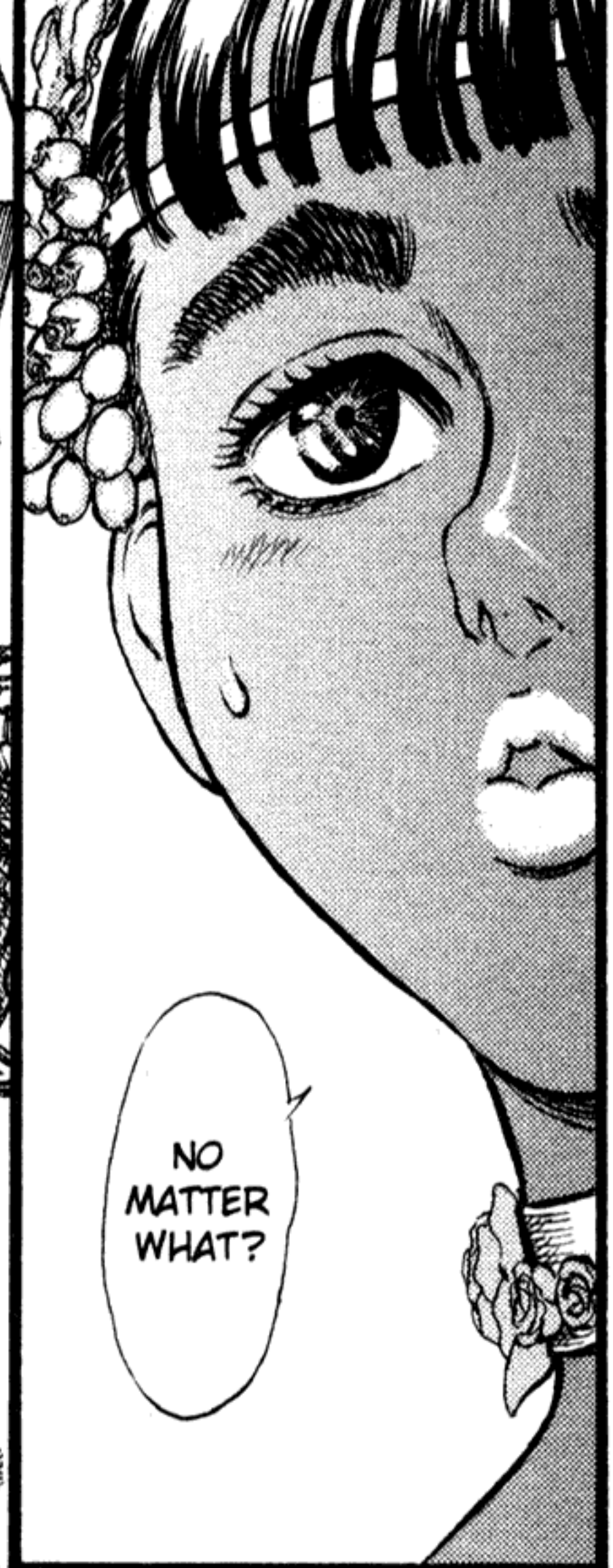


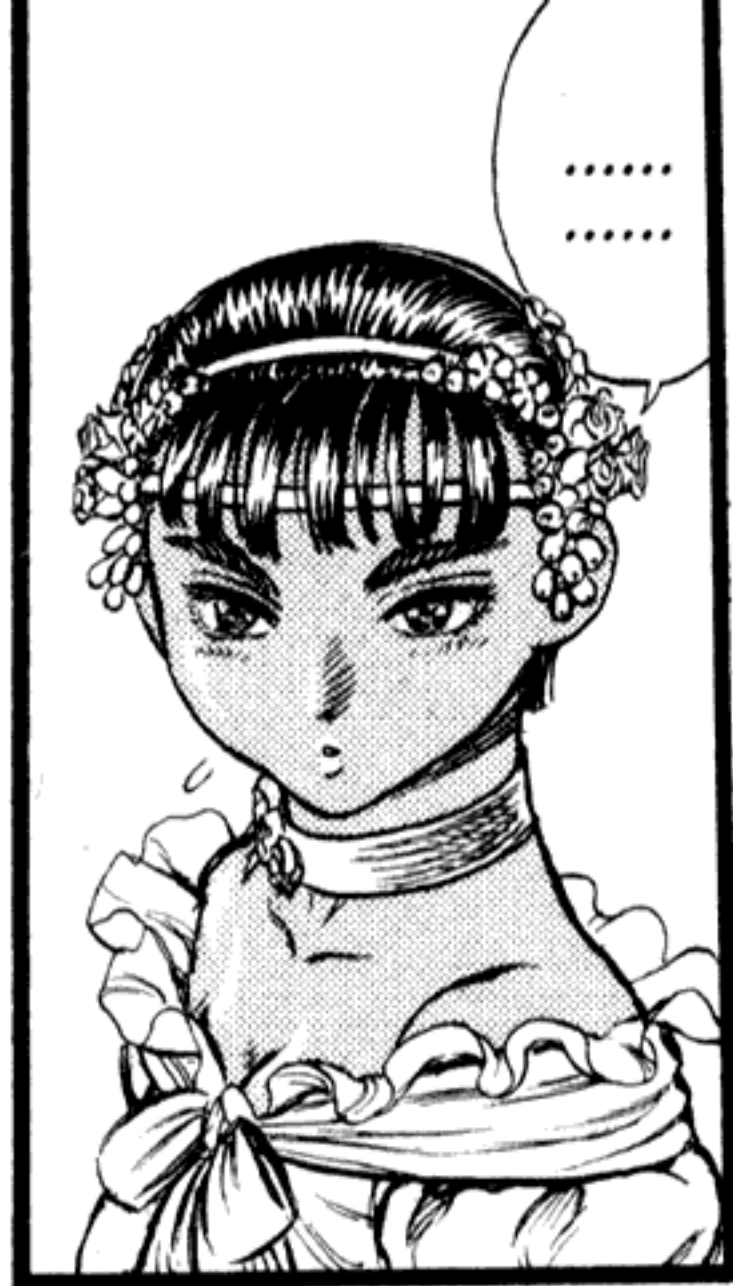
...YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS?

SO...



GLITS ...





.....
.....

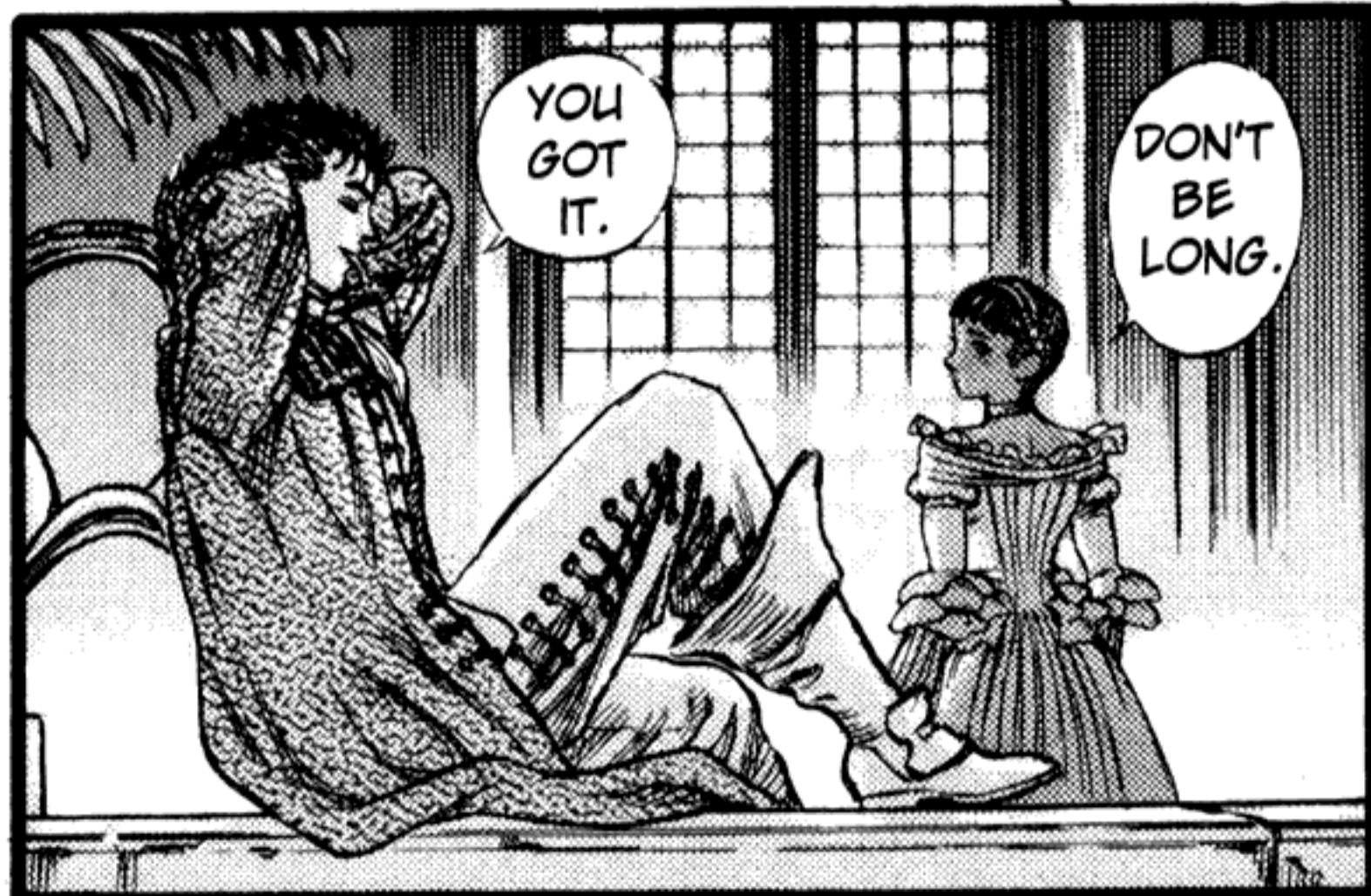


YOU
GO
ON
AHEAD.

I'M GONNA
ENJOY THE
AIR A BIT
MORE. CAN'T
STAND
LISTENING
TO THE KING
DRONE ON.

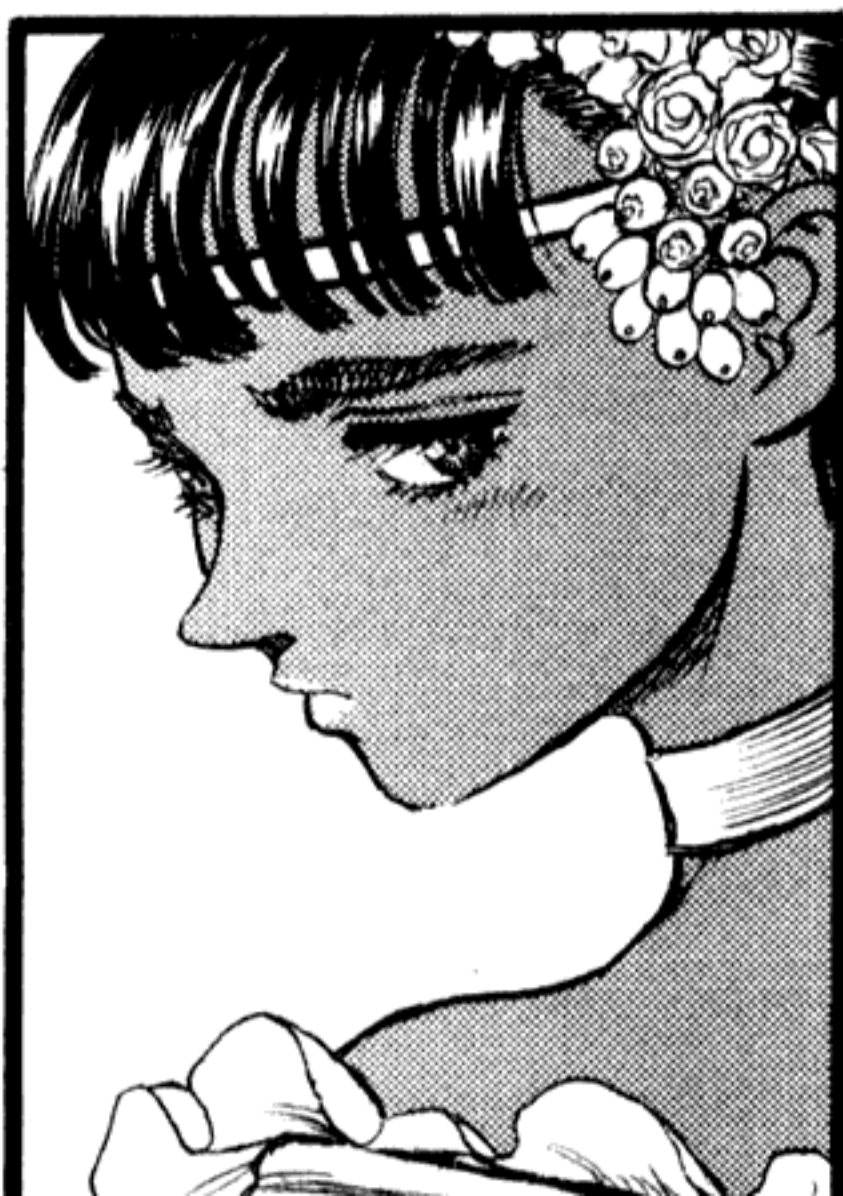
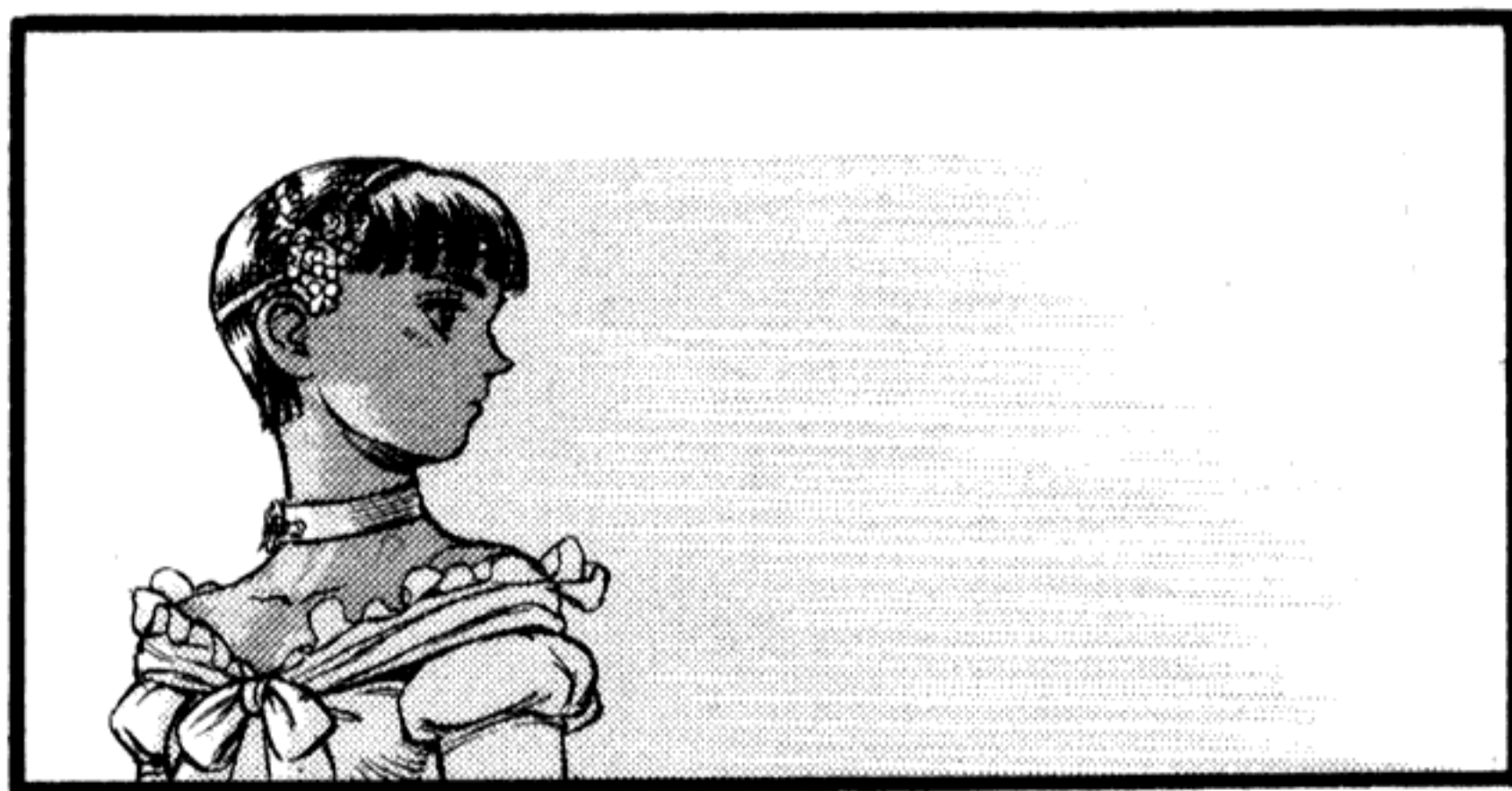


THE
SPONSORS
APPEAR.



YOU
GOT
IT.

DON'T
BE
LONG.



NEVER
MIND.

NAH.



HANG
ON.

EH?

AIN'T THAT A
LITTLE CRUEL,
GRIFFITH?

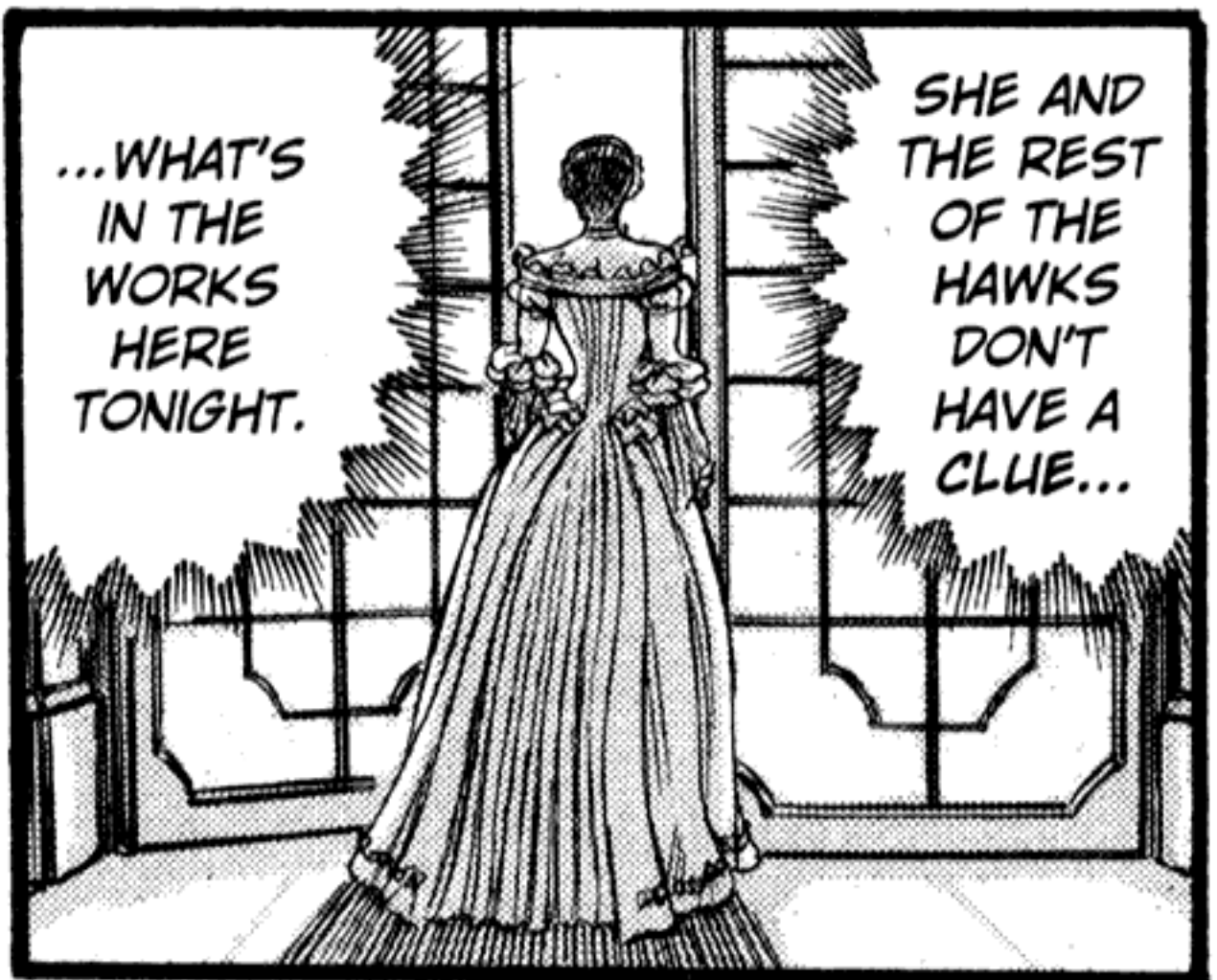


THERE'S
ONE MORE
REASON I
SHOWED UP
TONIGHT.



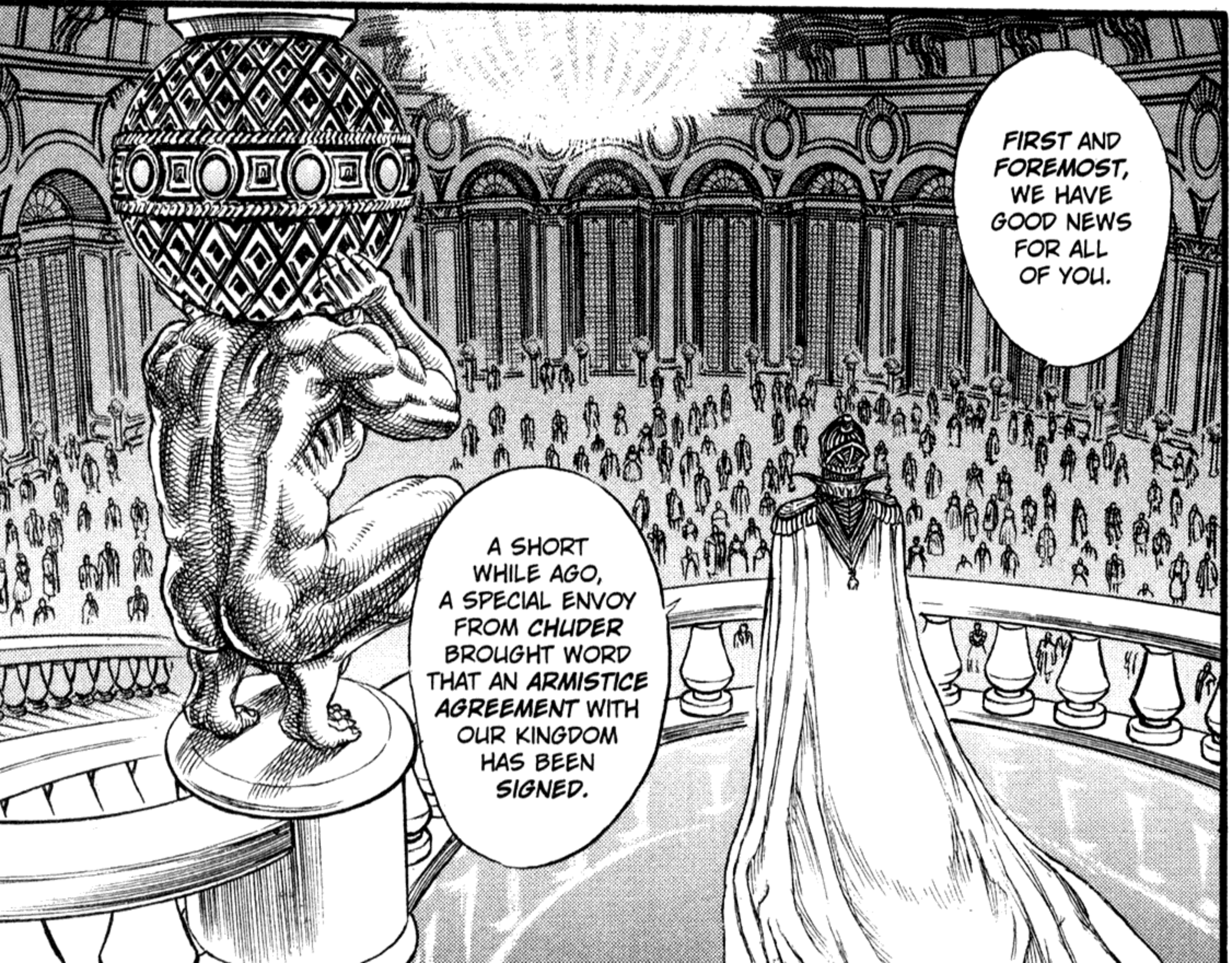
...WHAT'S
IN THE
WORKS
HERE
TONIGHT.

SHE AND
THE REST
OF THE
HAWKS
DON'T
HAVE A
CLUE...



FIRST AND
FOREMOST,
WE HAVE
GOOD NEWS
FOR ALL
OF YOU.

A SHORT
WHILE AGO,
A SPECIAL ENVOY
FROM CHUDER
BROUGHT WORD
THAT AN ARMISTICE
AGREEMENT WITH
OUR KINGDOM
HAS BEEN
SIGNED.



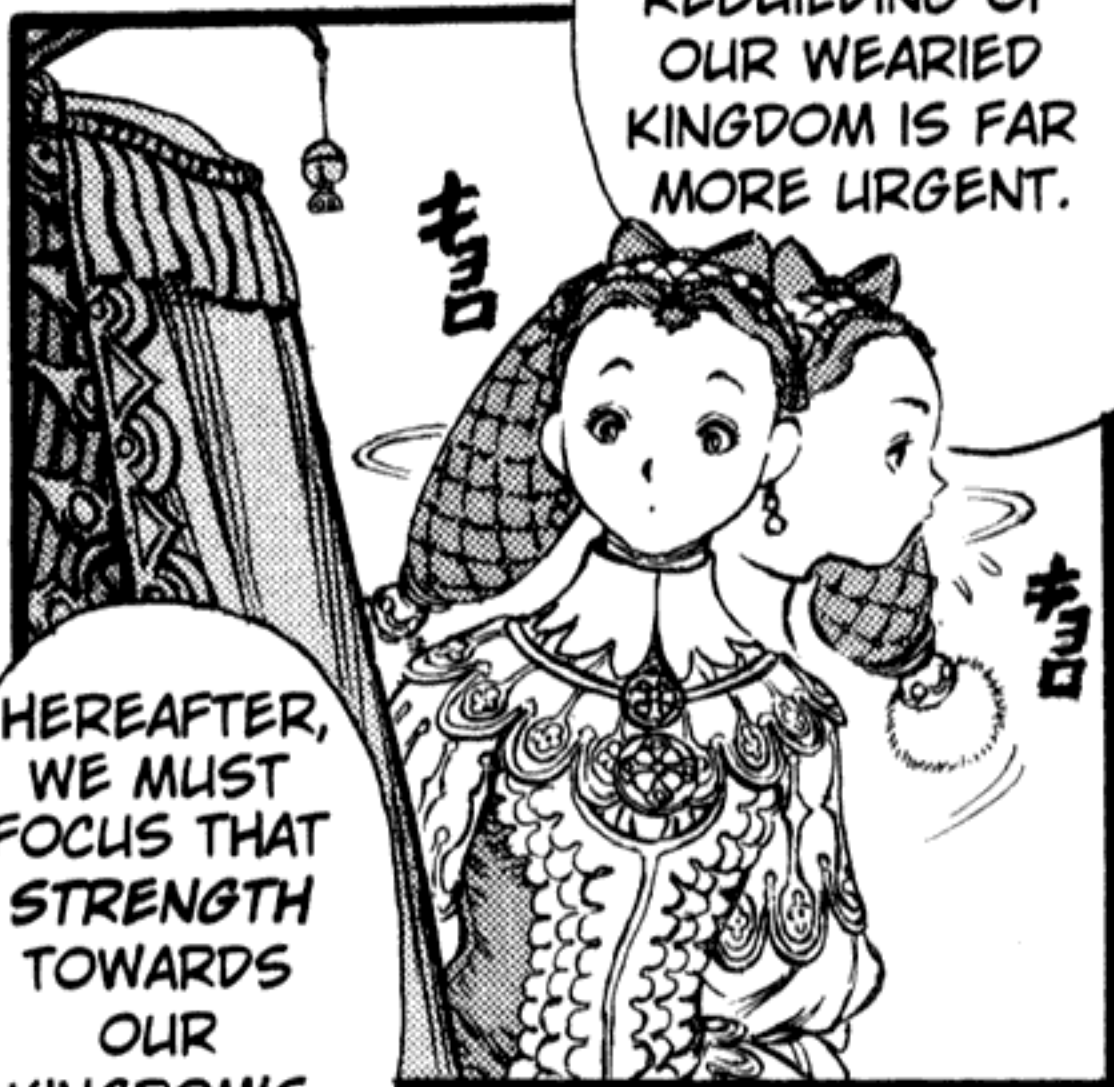


THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW WHO SPEAK OUT IN OPPOSITION TO THIS ARMISTICE.

WE THANK FROM OUR HEARTS ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ENDURED THIS LENGTHY TIME OF TRIAL ALONG WITH US.

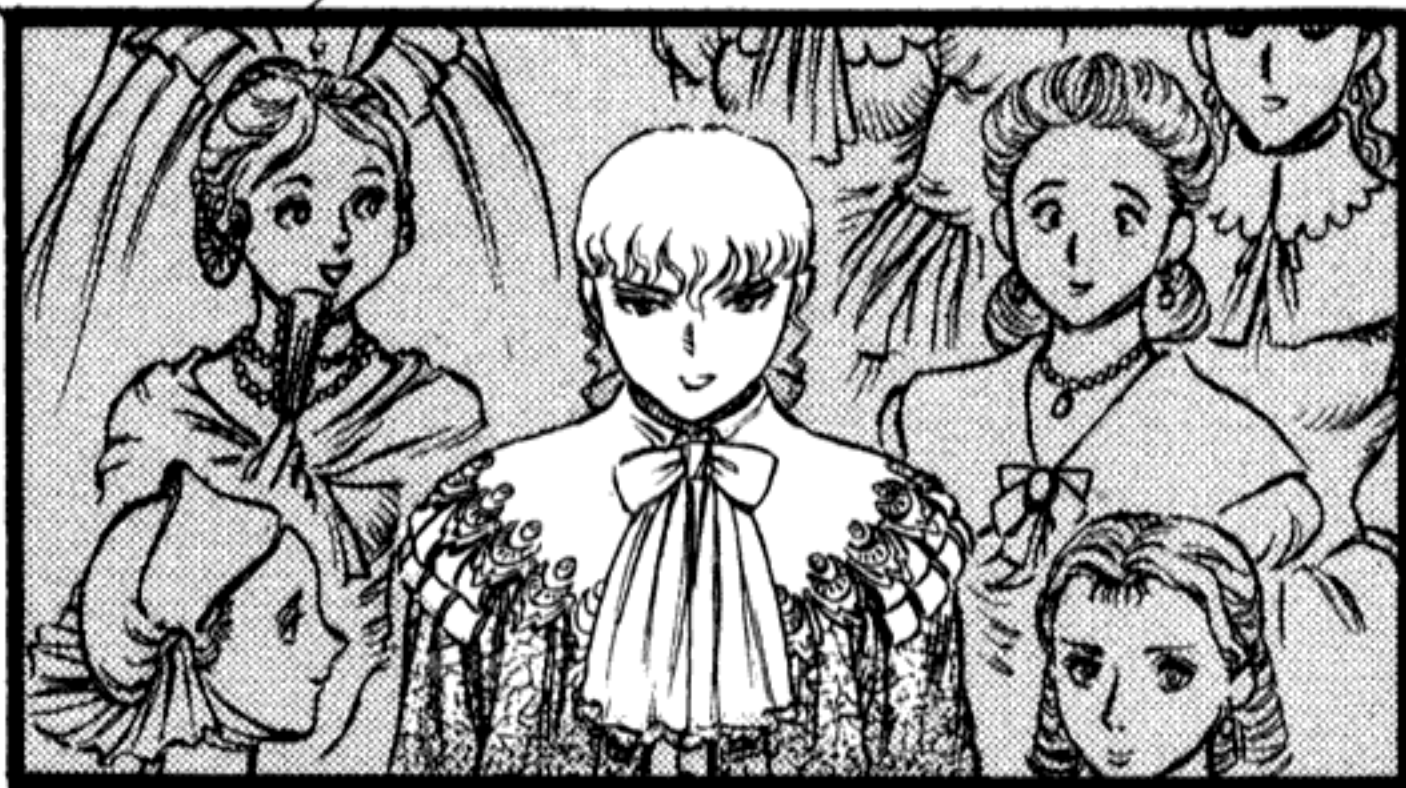
HATRED OF CHUDER AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE LOST FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES TO THE WAR HAS NO DOUBT PERSISTED FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

WE SINCERELY SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM.



HOWEVER, THE REBUILDING OF OUR WEARIED KINGDOM IS FAR MORE URGENT.

HEREAFTER, WE MUST FOCUS THAT STRENGTH TOWARDS OUR KINGDOM'S PROSPERITY.





IT HAS CONTINUED TO BE SAID THESE HUNDRED YEARS THAT THE CAPTURE OF DOLDREY WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH THEIR BOLD, UNIQUE BRAND OF VALOR THEY HAVE FINALLY ACCOMPLISHED IT.

THE RECAPTURE OF TERRITORY HAS BEEN OUR KINGDOM'S MOST FERVENT PRAYER SINCE THE DAYS OF TWO KINGS PRIOR.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE BAND OF THE HAWK LED BY COUNT GRIFFITH DEMONSTRATED EXCEEDINGLY GREAT MERIT LEADING TO THIS ARMISTICE.

HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT US.

OH!



...WE PLAN TO PRESENT COUNT GRIFFITH AND THE BAND OF THE HAWK WITH THE MIDLAND ARMY'S...

AT THE MILITARY AWARD CEREMONY TWO DAYS HENCE...

...HIGHEST ENNOBLEMENT, THE WHITE TITLE.

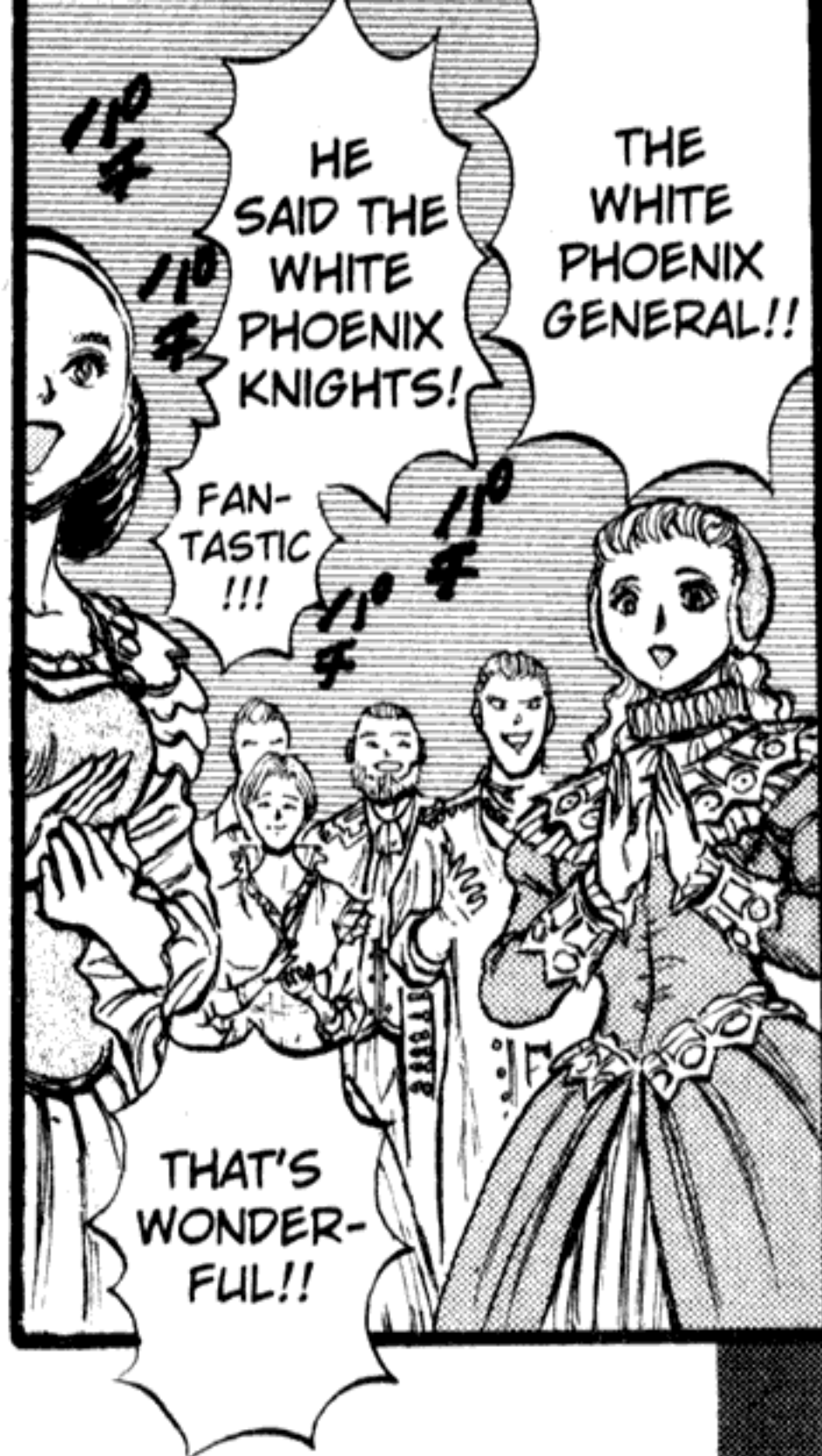


EXCUSE ME, PLEASE LET ME THROUGH.

THIS IS A BIT HASTY OF US, BUT IT IS A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND THUS WE SHALL INFORM ALL OF YOU.

MY, MY.

SHE'S THE HAWKS' LADY COMMANDER.



HE
SAID THE
WHITE
PHOENIX
KNIGHTS!

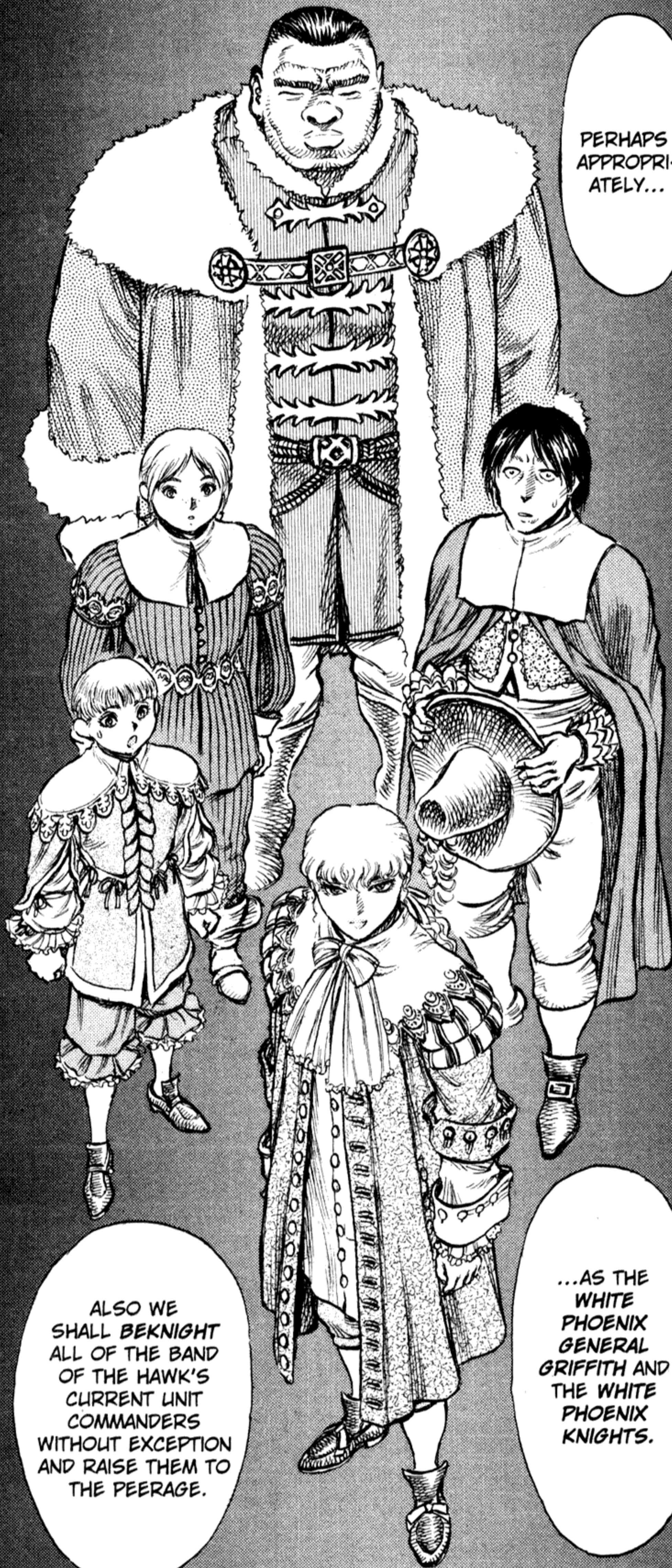
THE
WHITE
PHOENIX
GENERAL!!

FAN-
TASTIC
!!!

THAT'S
WONDER-
FUL!!



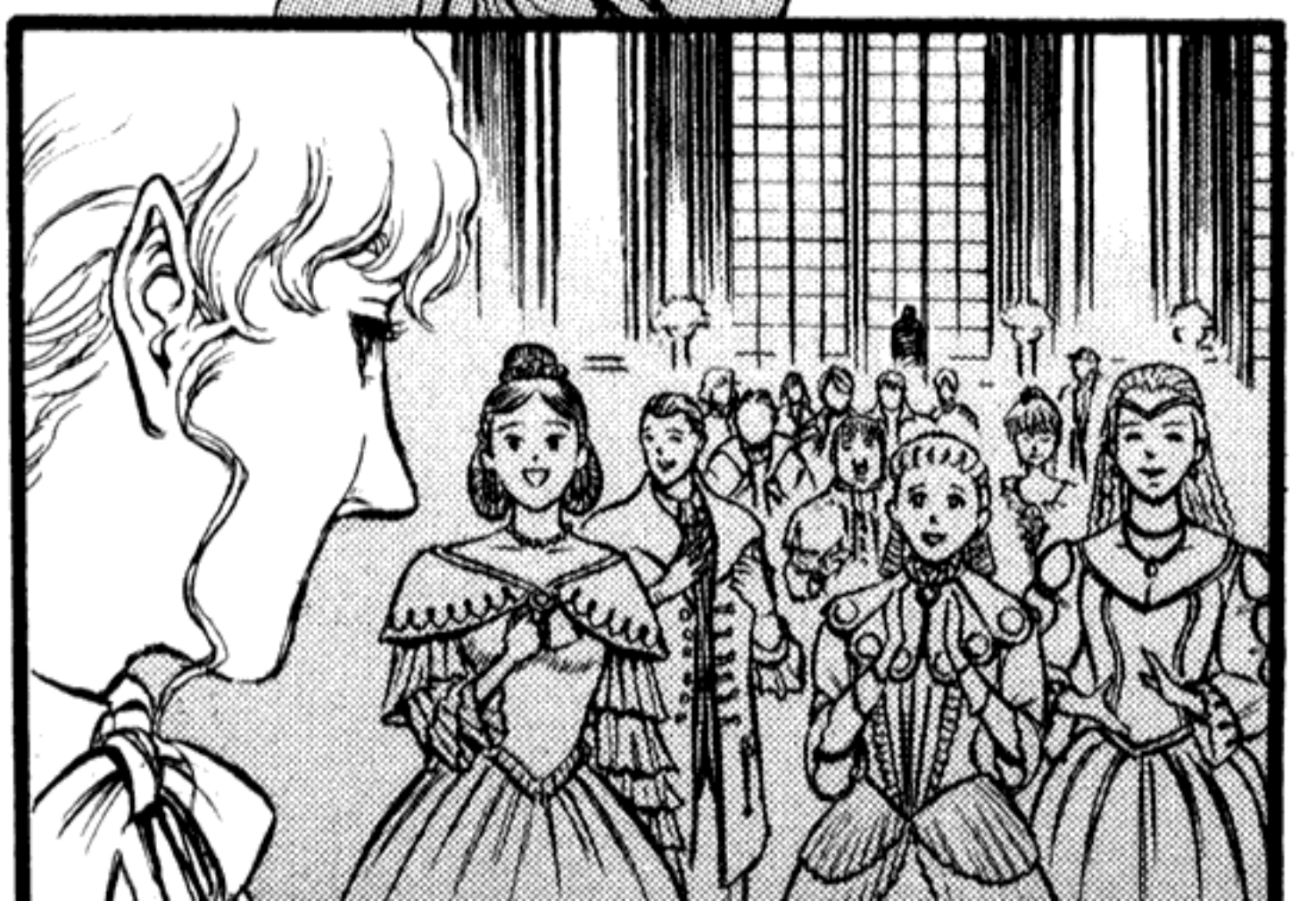
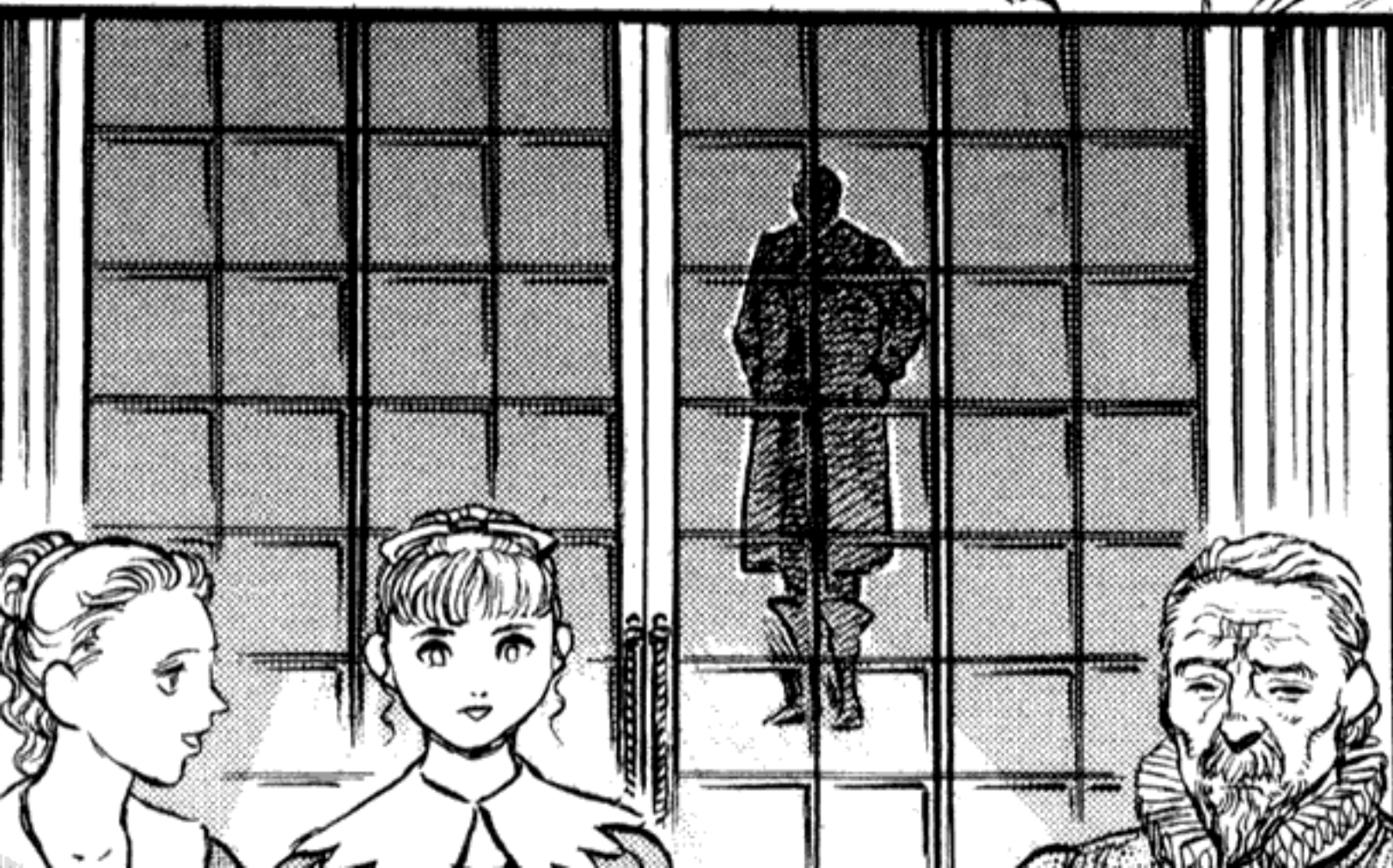
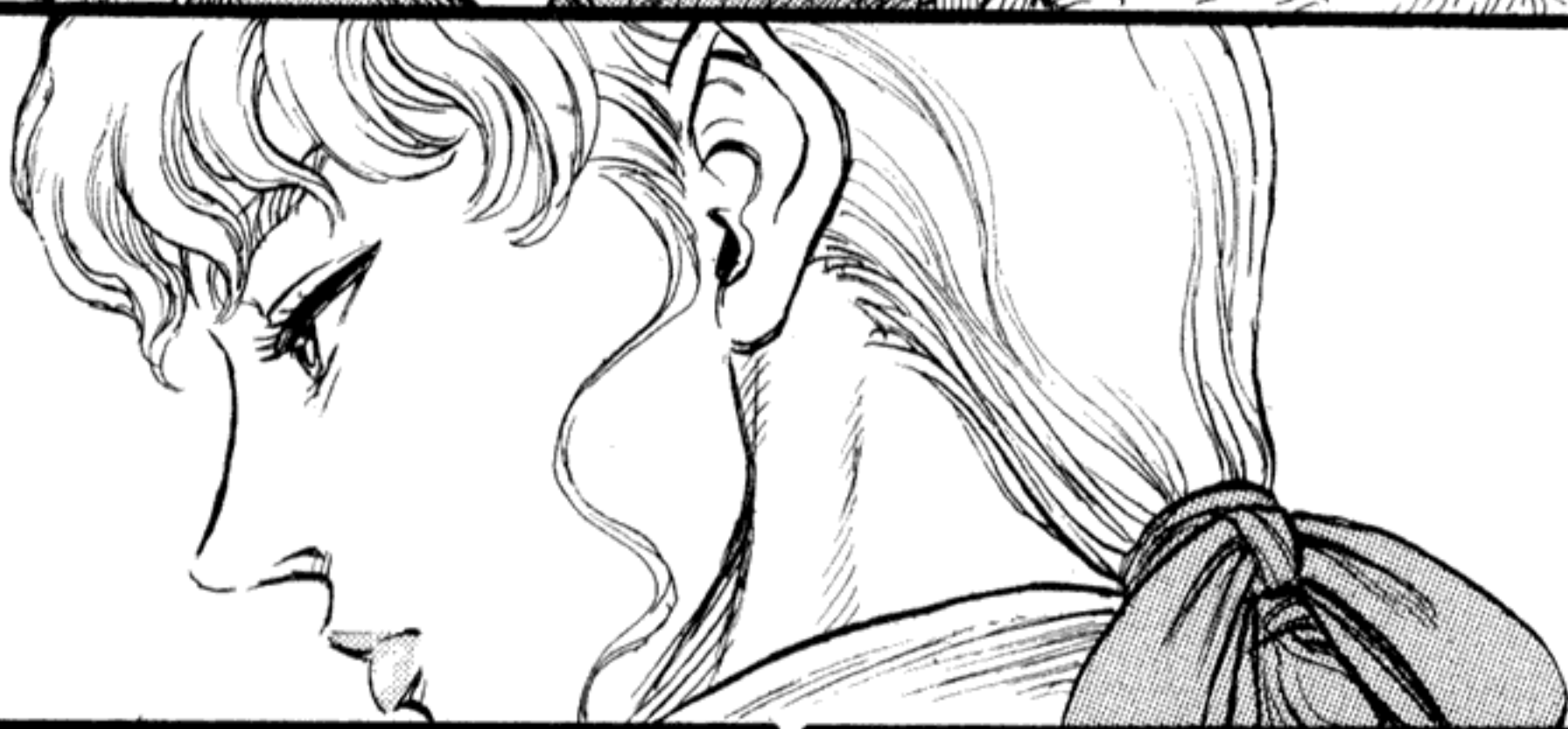
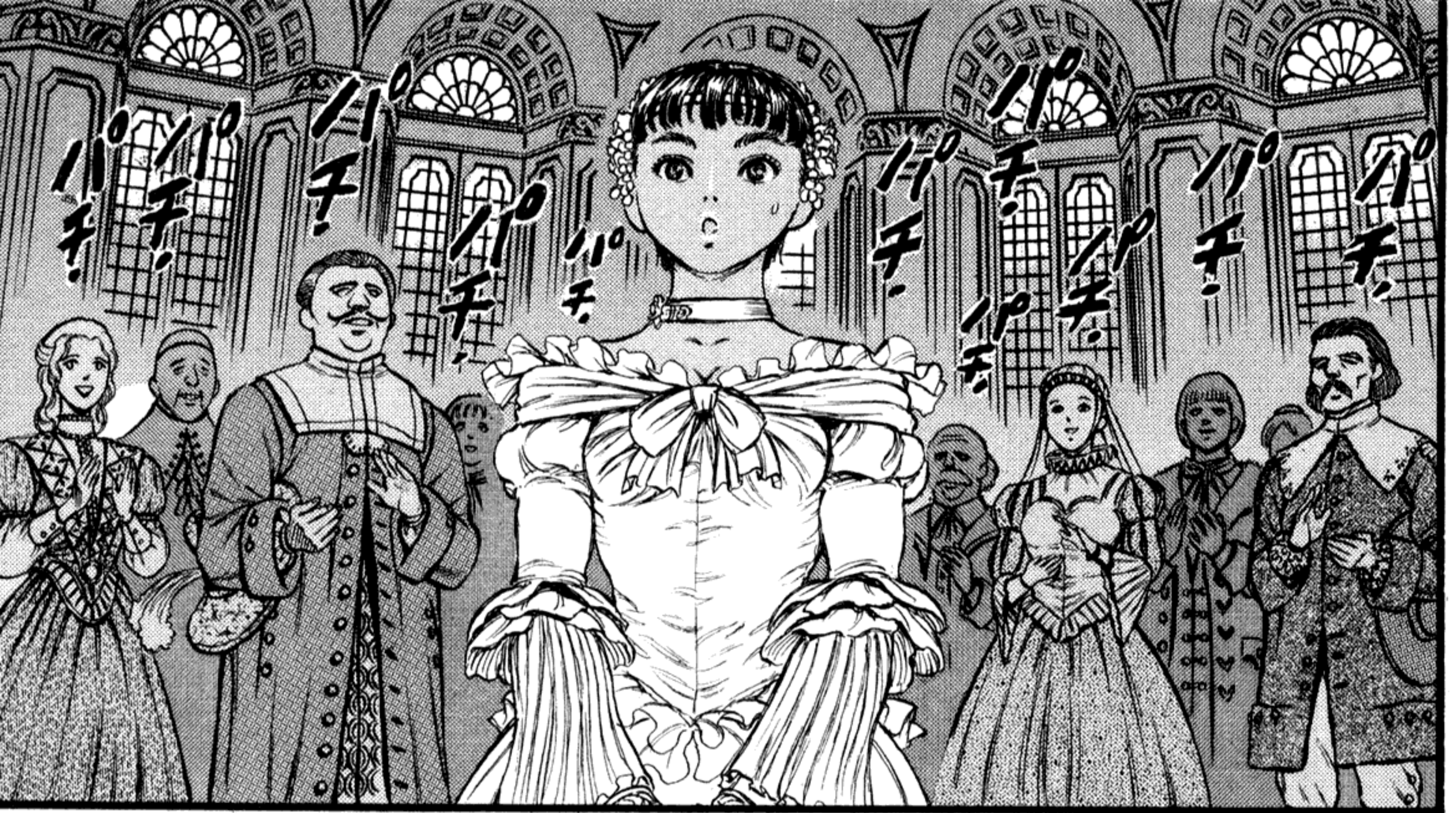
**WHITE
PHOENIX
GENERAL
GRIFFITH!!**

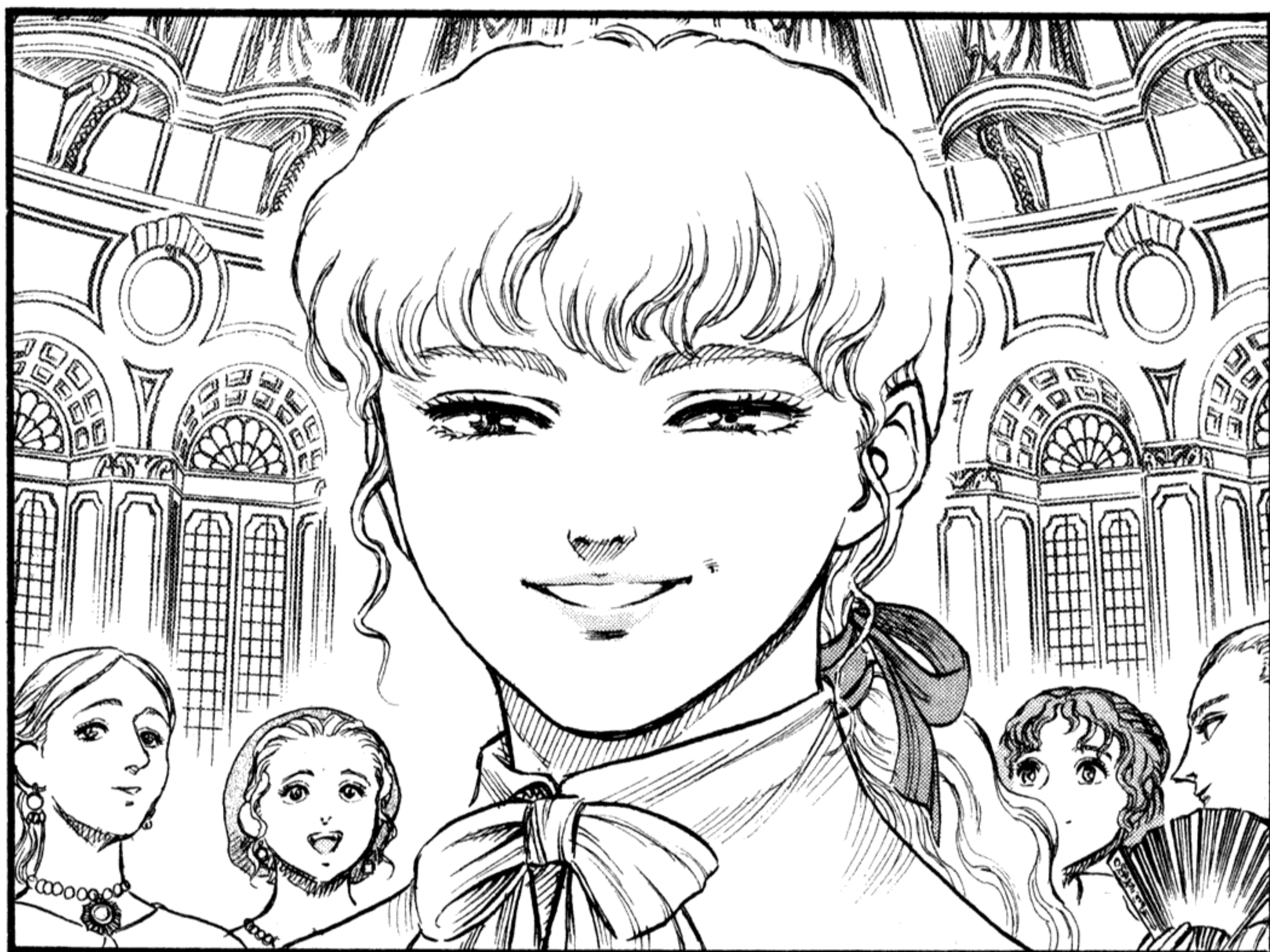
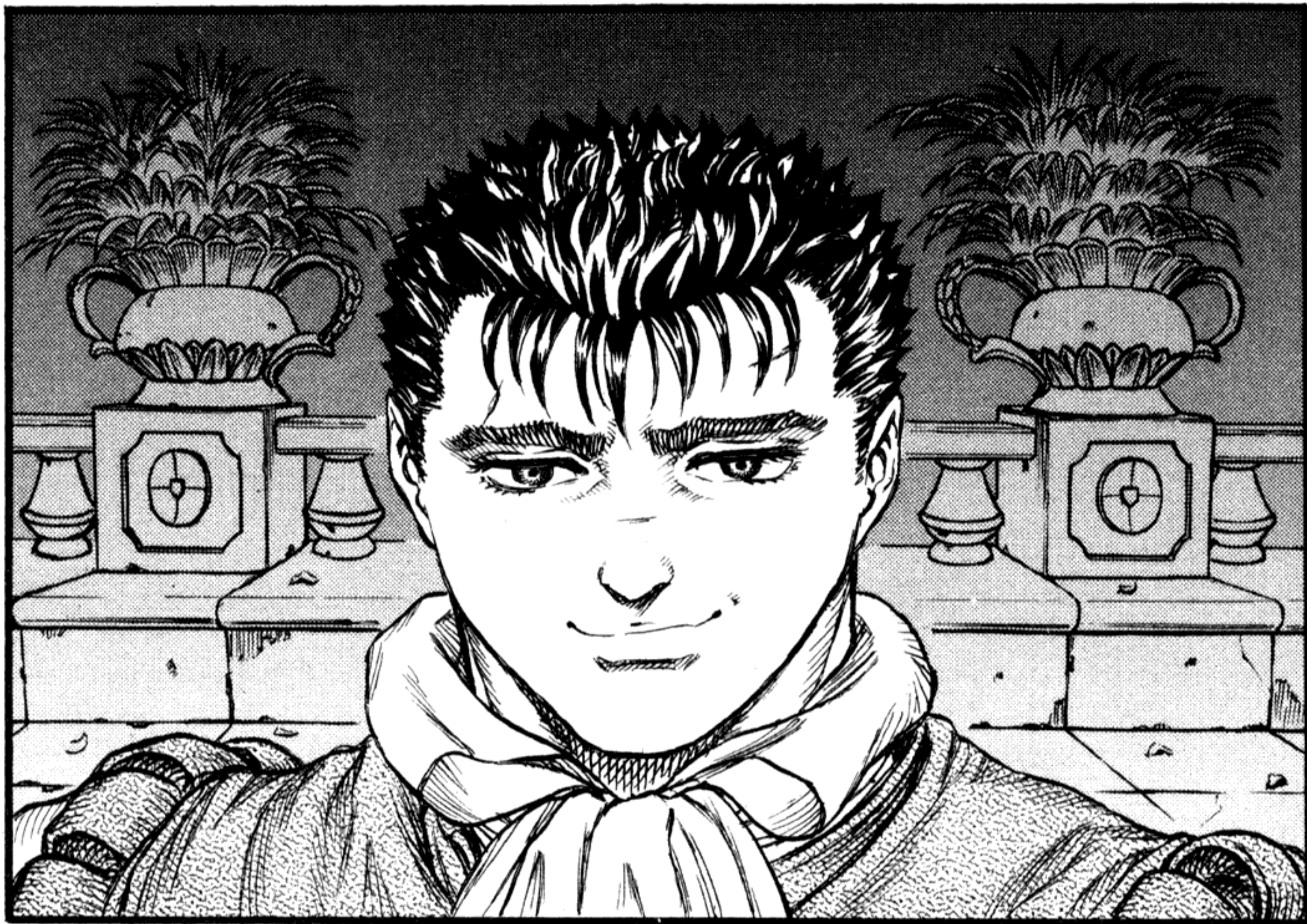


PERHAPS
APPROPRI-
ATELY...

ALSO WE
SHALL BEKNIGHT
ALL OF THE BAND
OF THE HAWK'S
CURRENT UNIT
COMMANDERS
WITHOUT EXCEPTION
AND RAISE THEM TO
THE PEERAGE.

...AS THE
WHITE
PHOENIX
GENERAL
GRIFFITH AND
THE WHITE
PHOENIX
KNIGHTS.





MOMENT OF GLORY: END

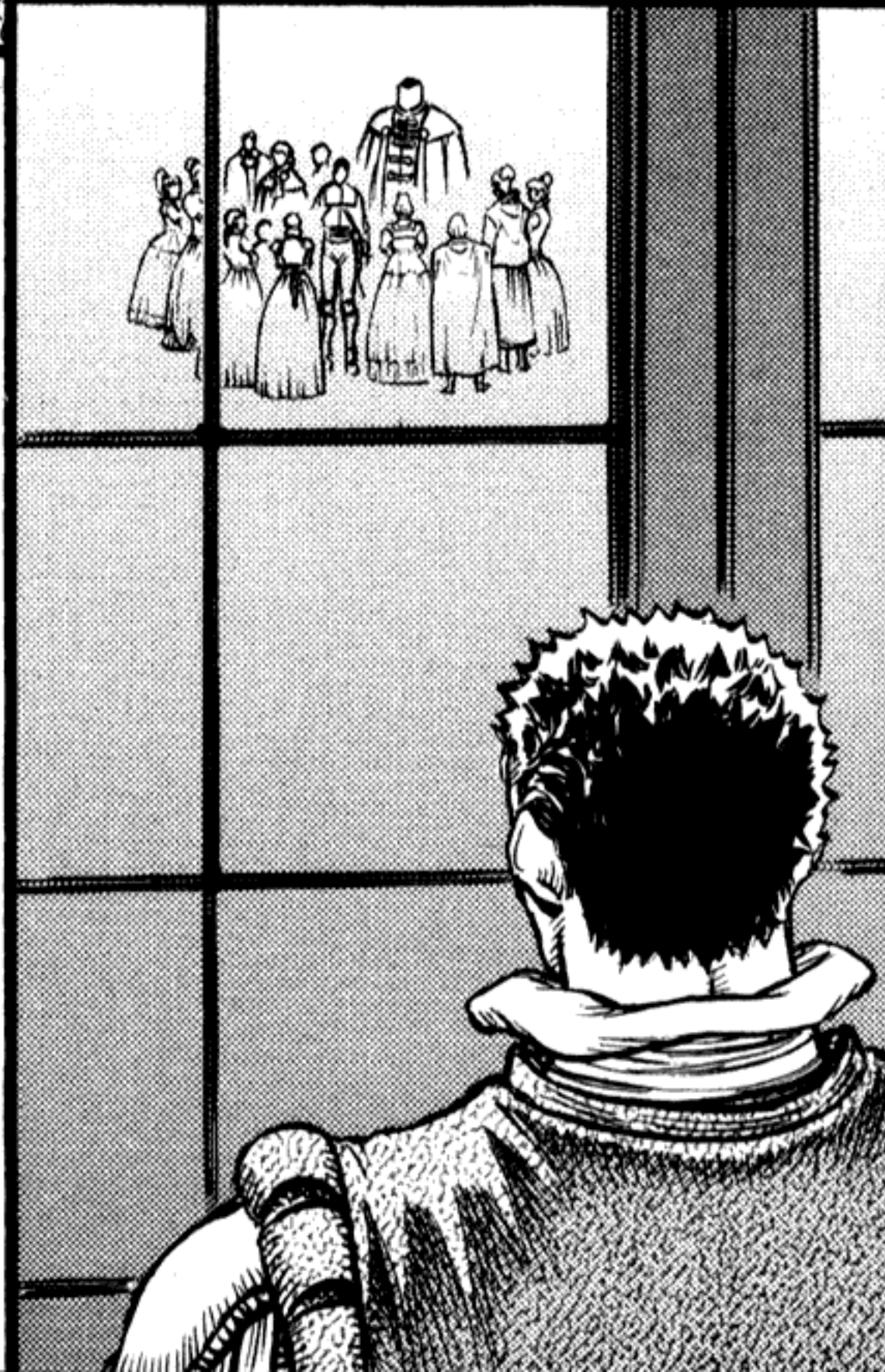
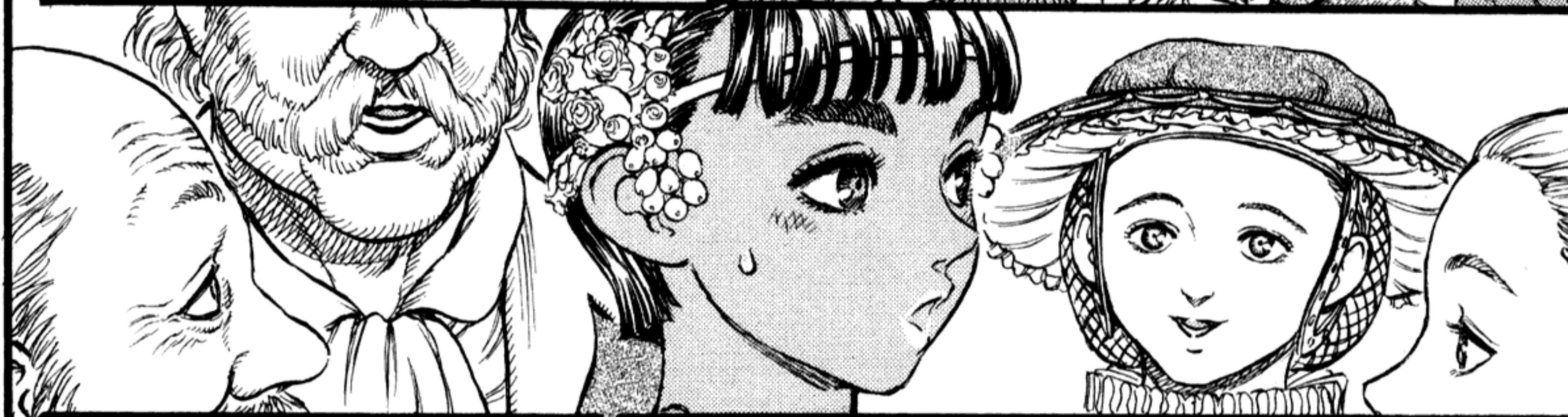
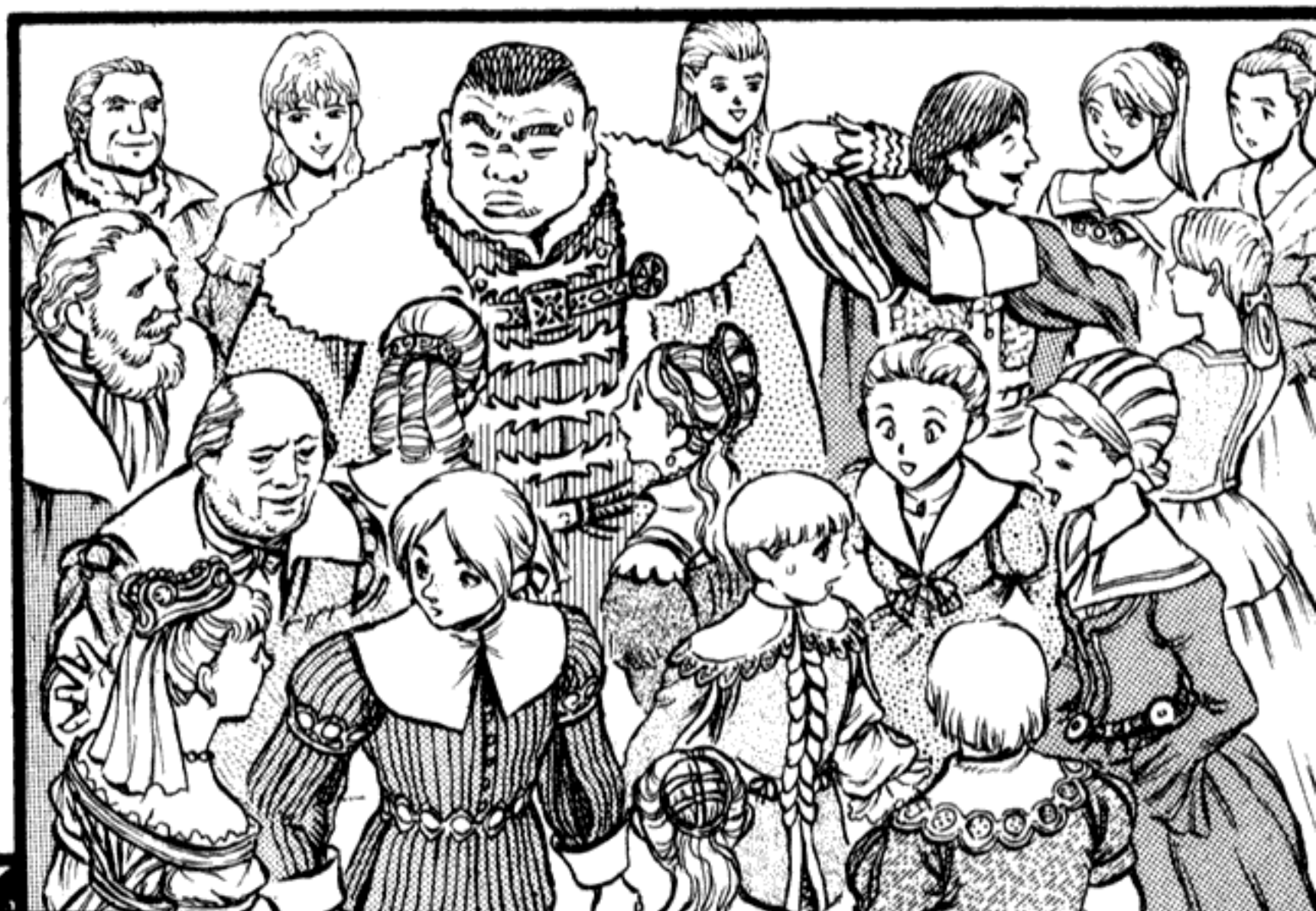
WHITE
PHOENIX
GENERAL
GRIFFITH!!

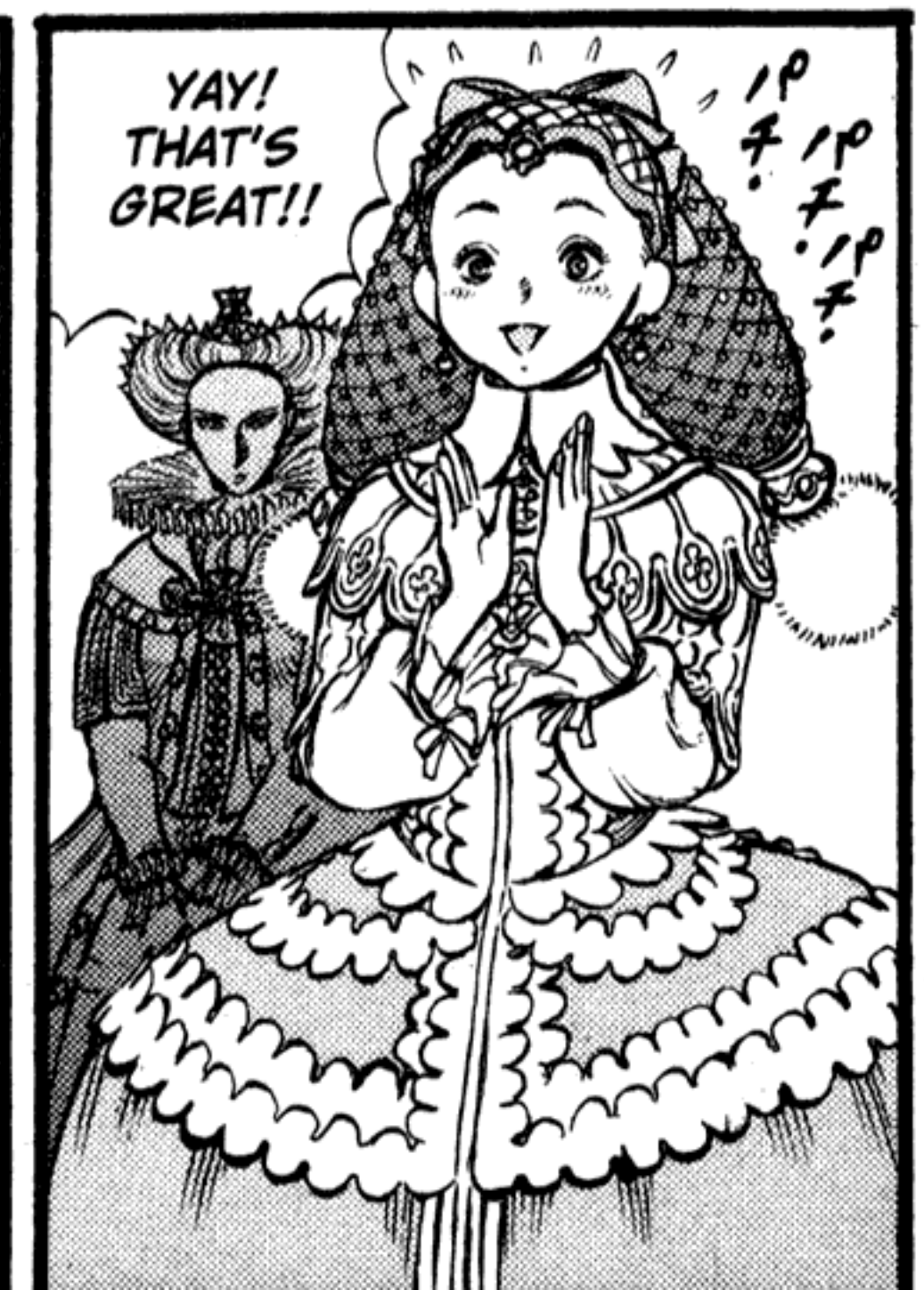
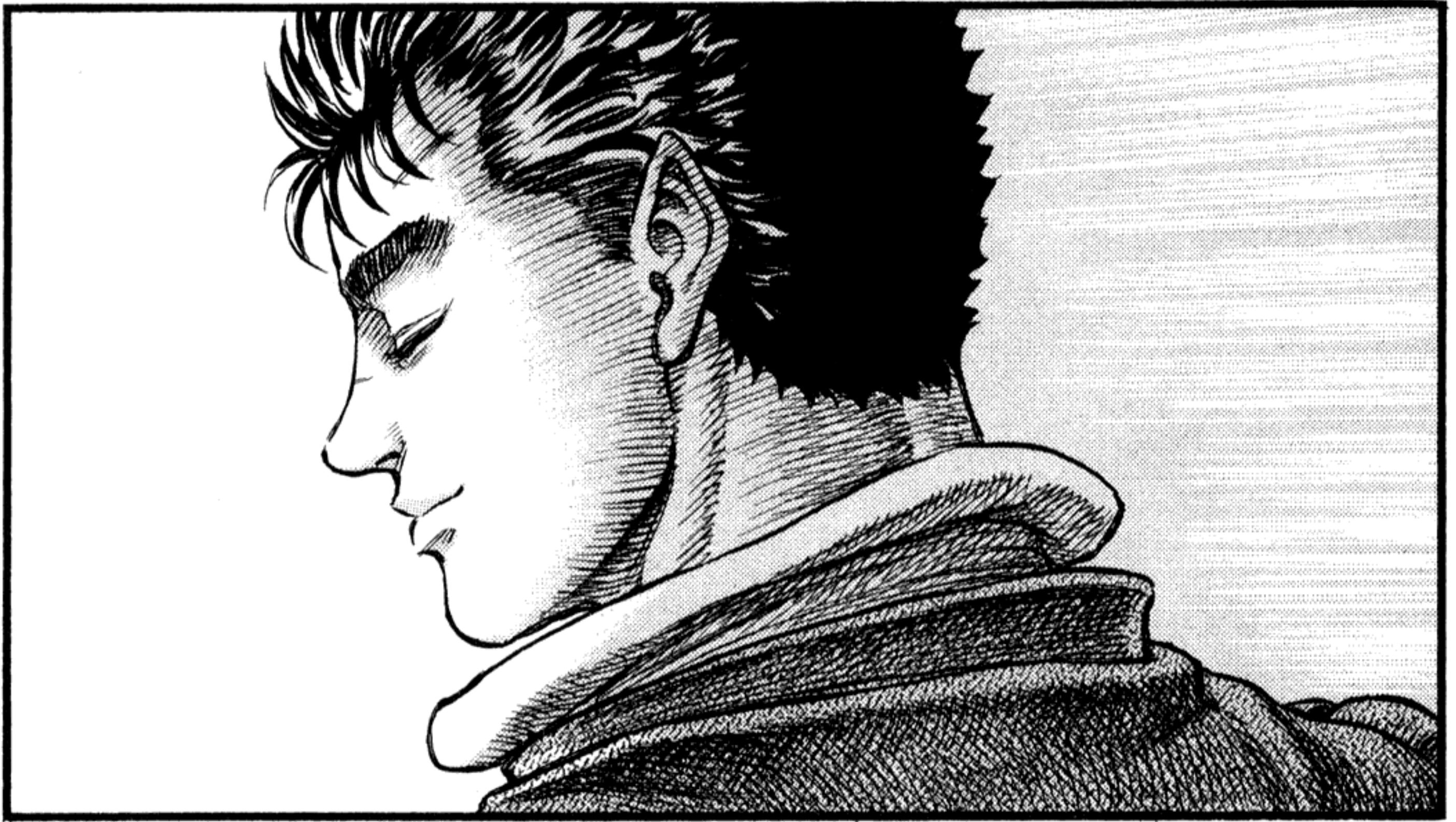
THE
WHITE
PHOENIX
KNIGHTS!!



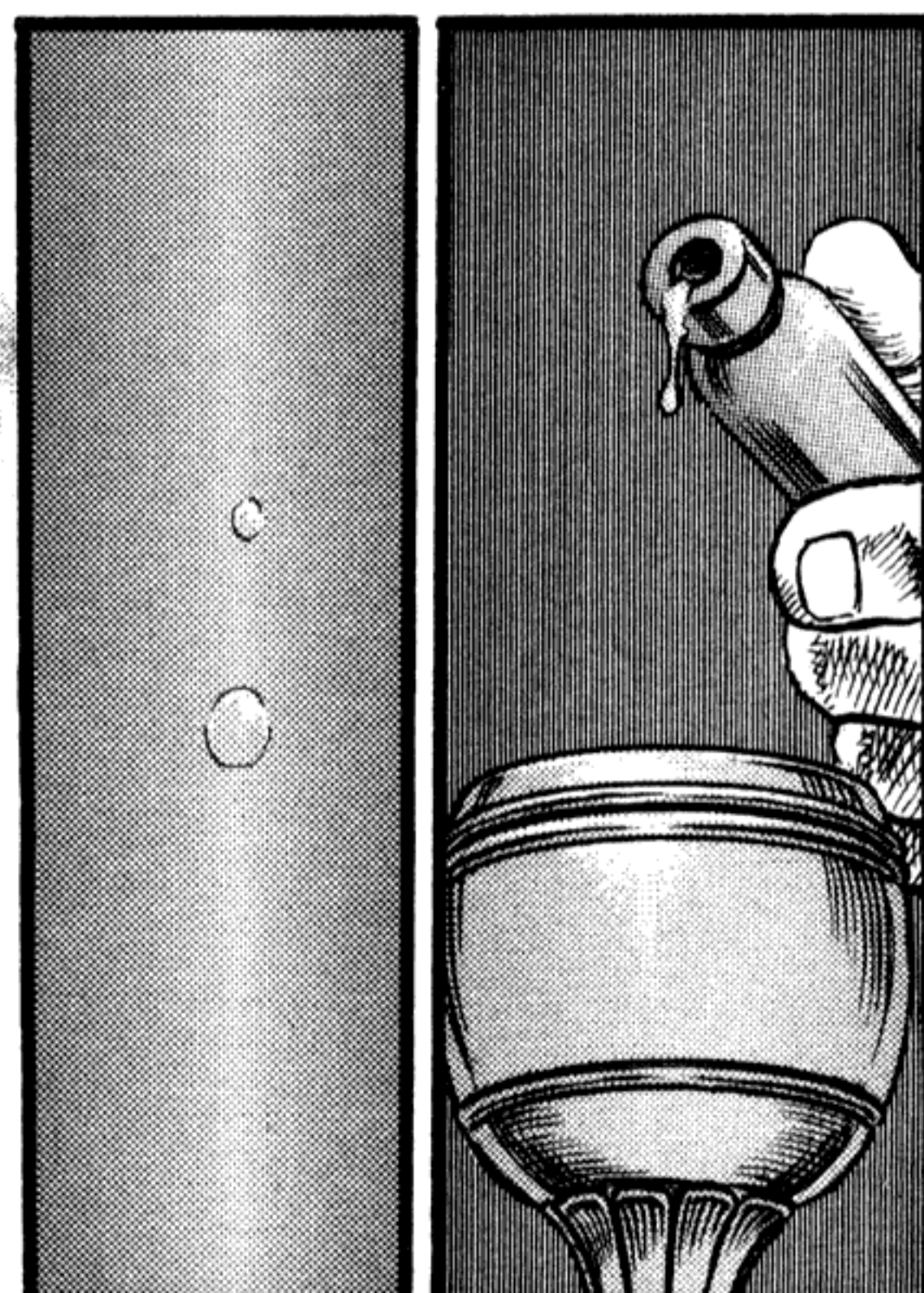
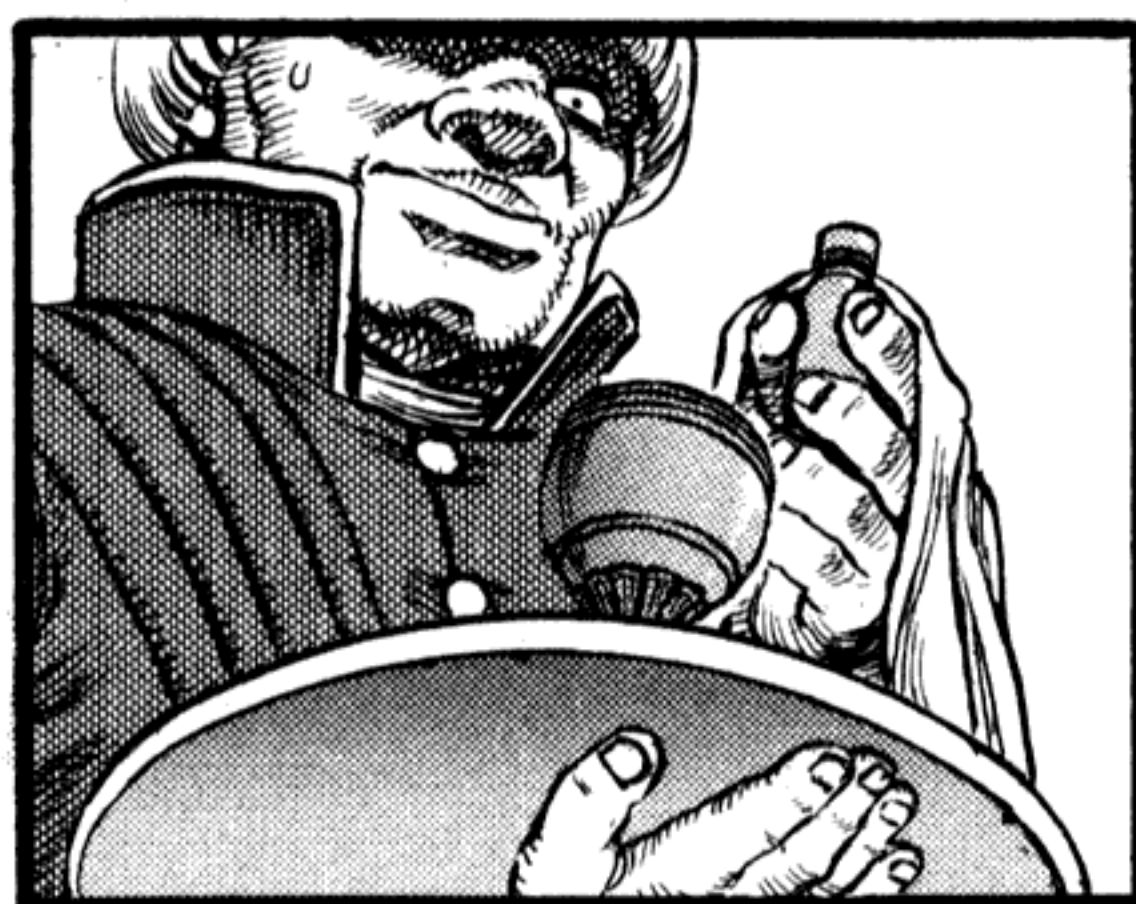
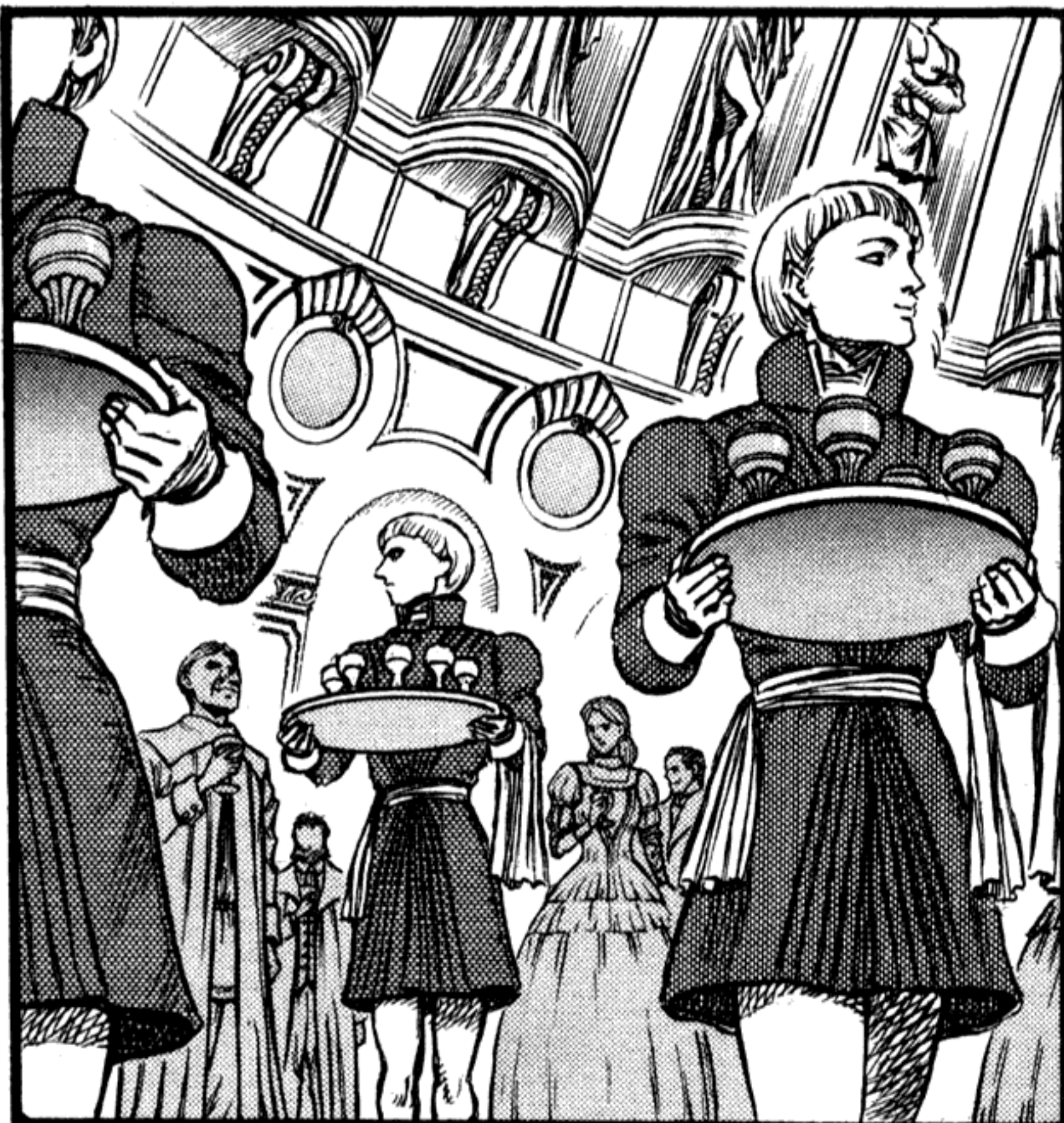
TOMBSTONE OF FLAME, CHAPTER 1

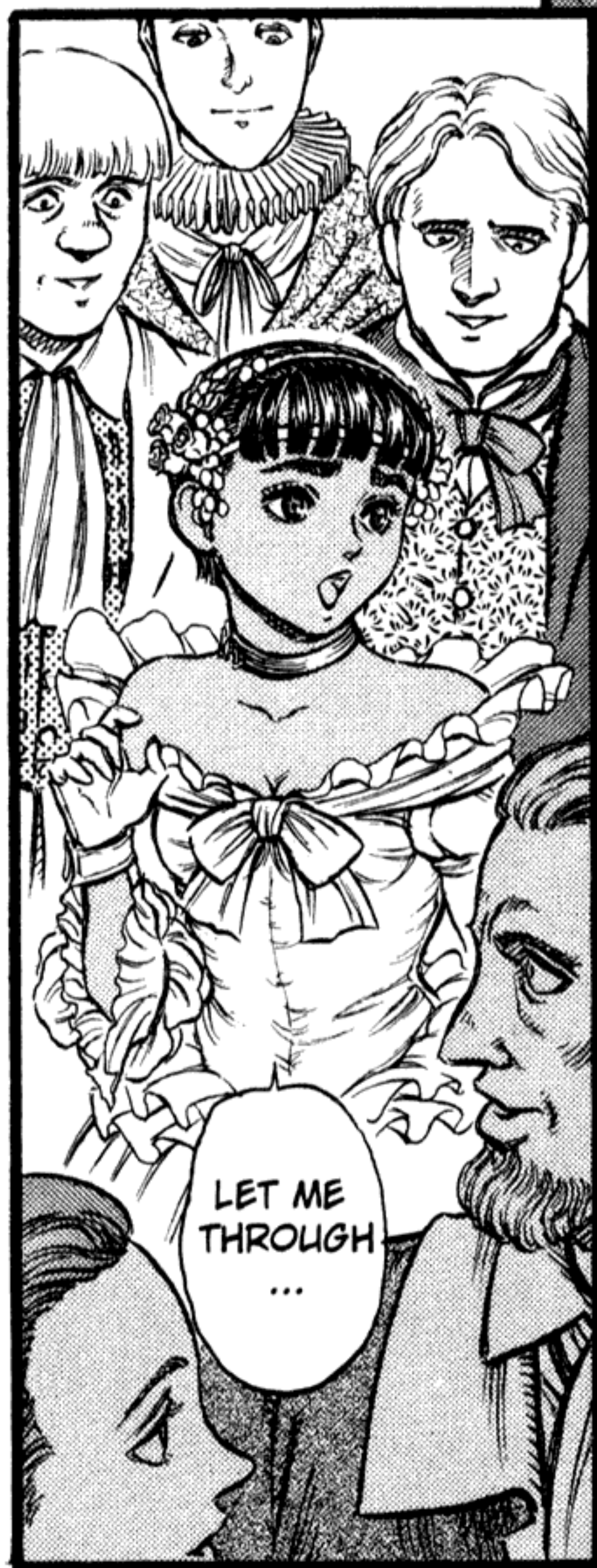
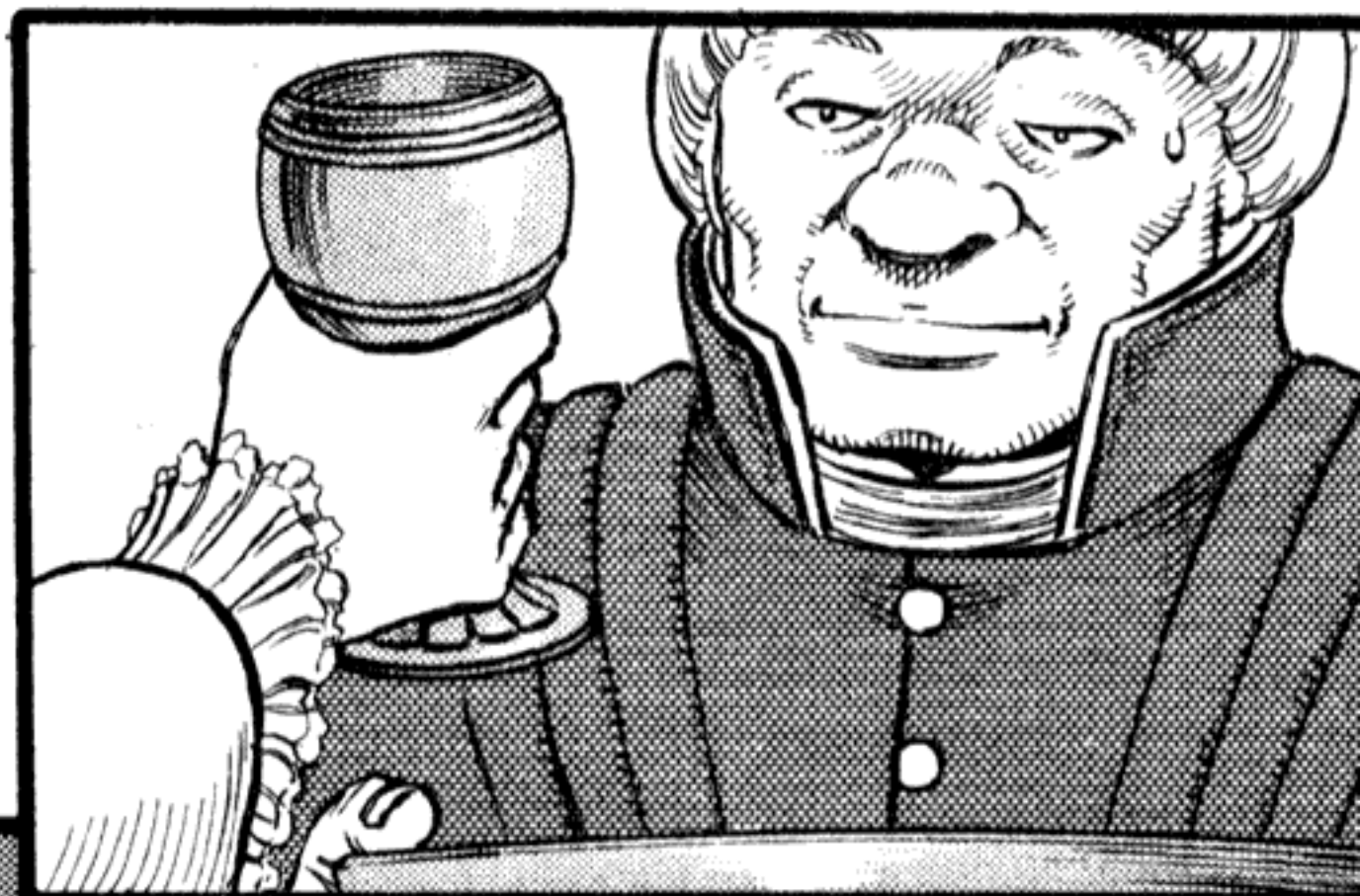
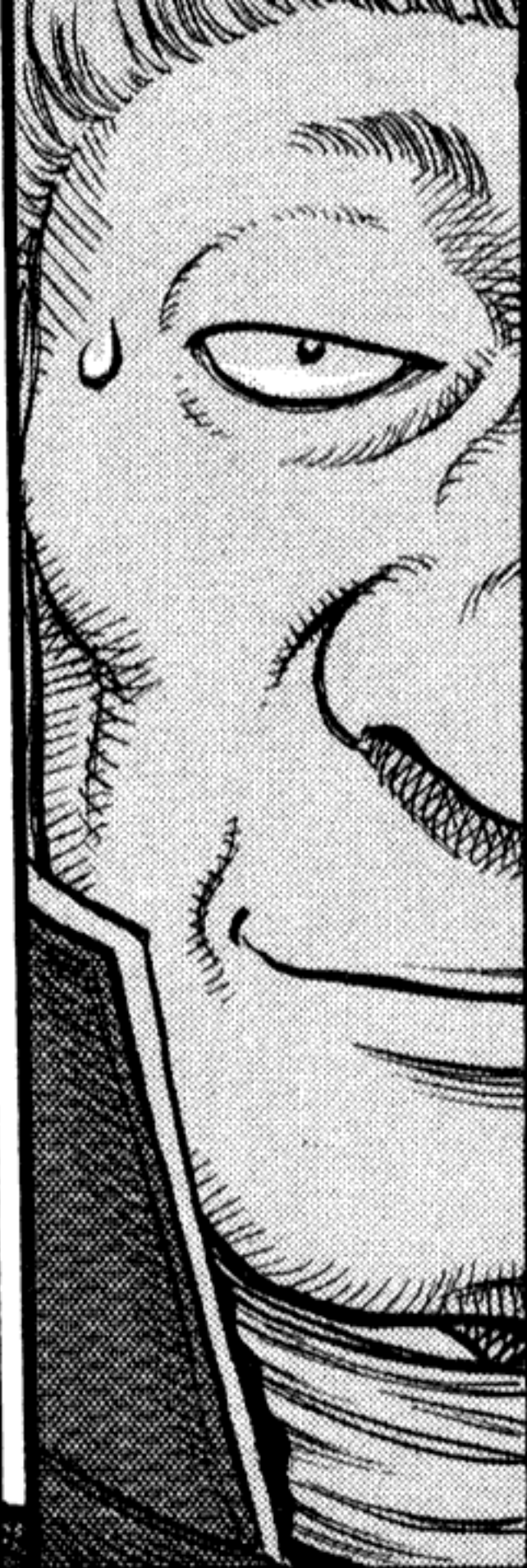
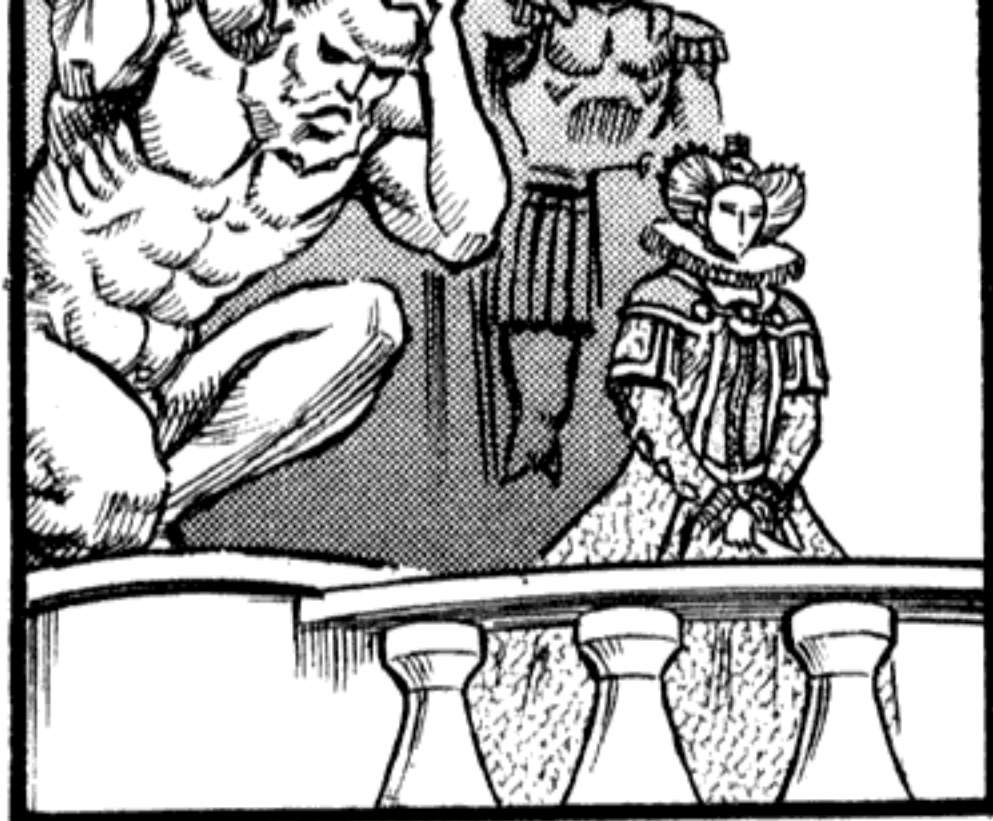
炎の墓標(1)

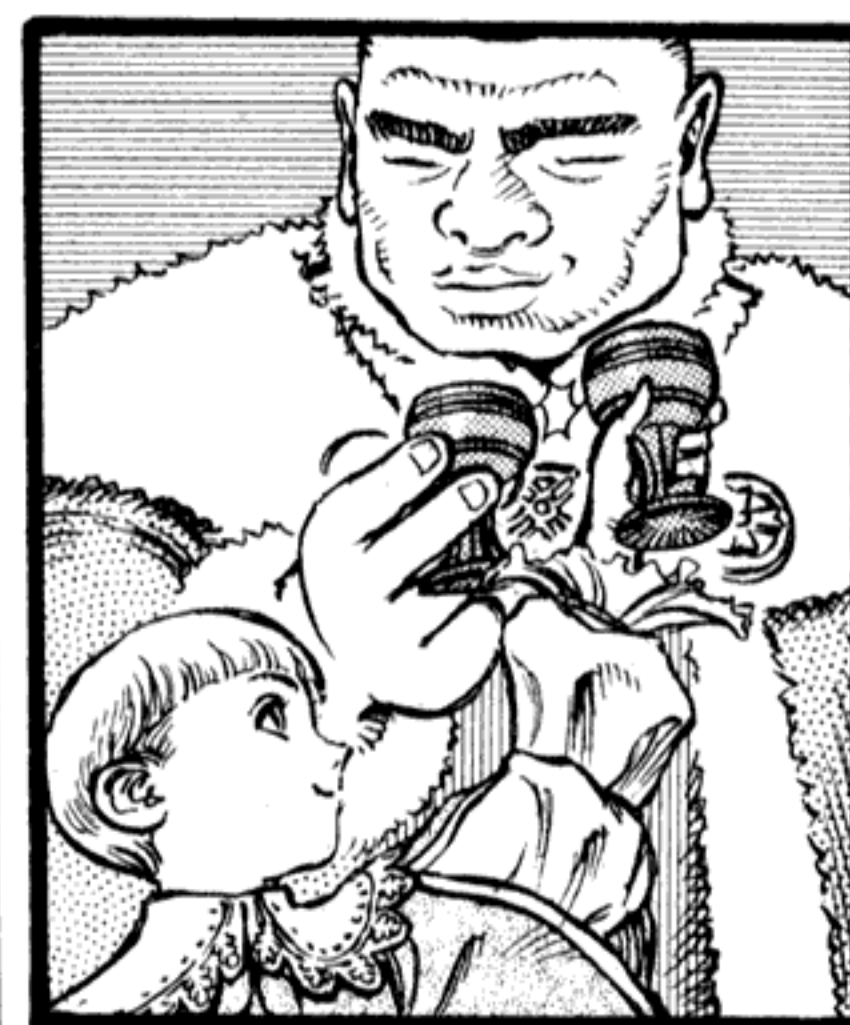


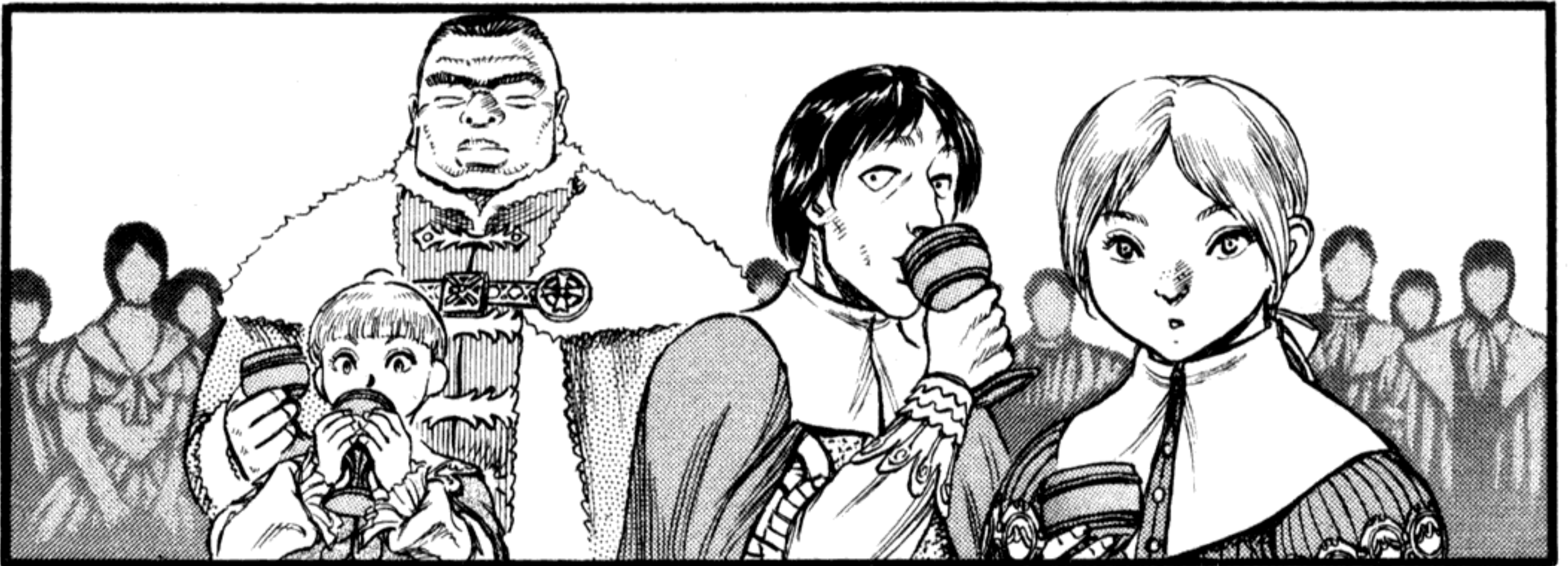
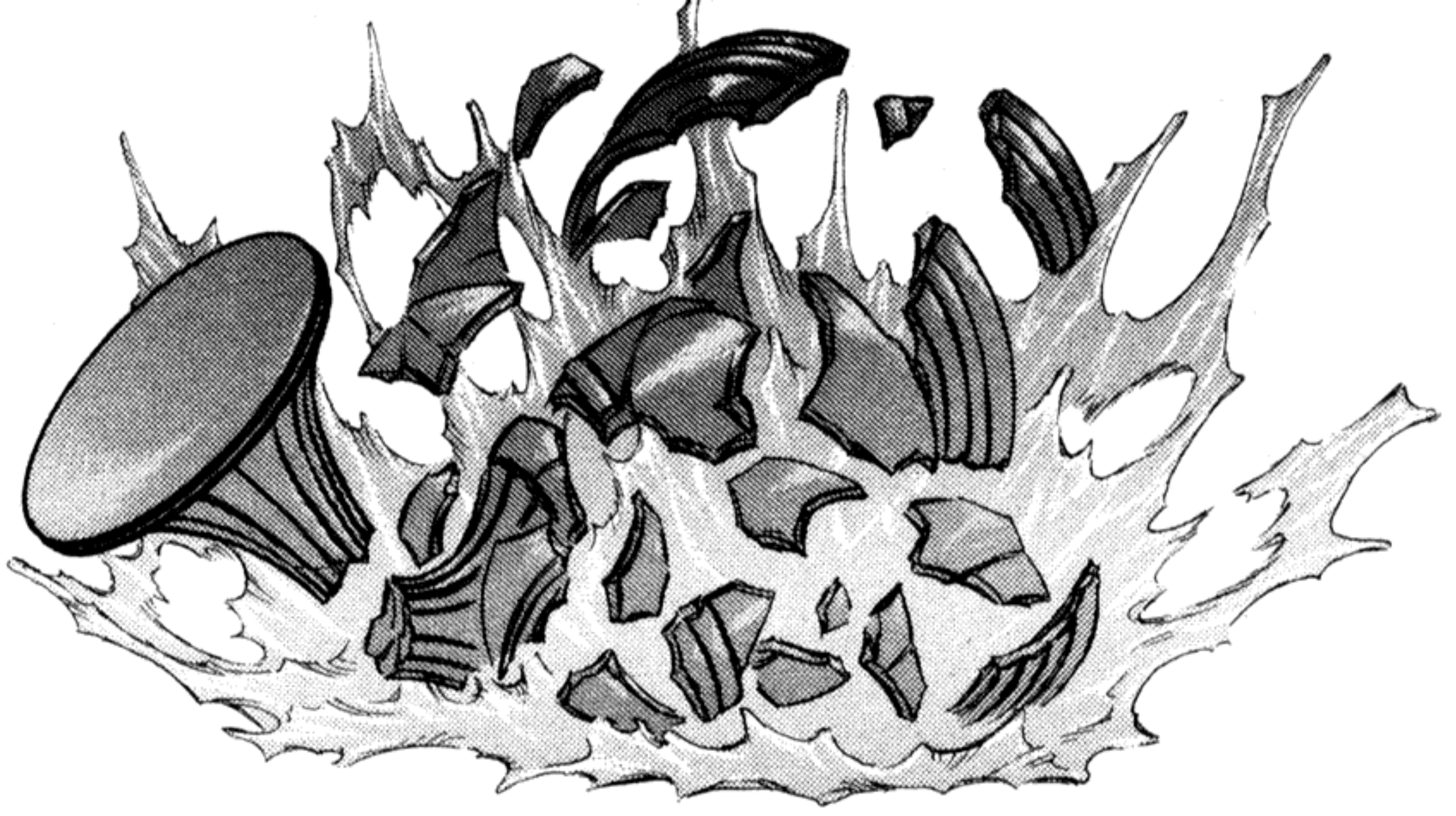


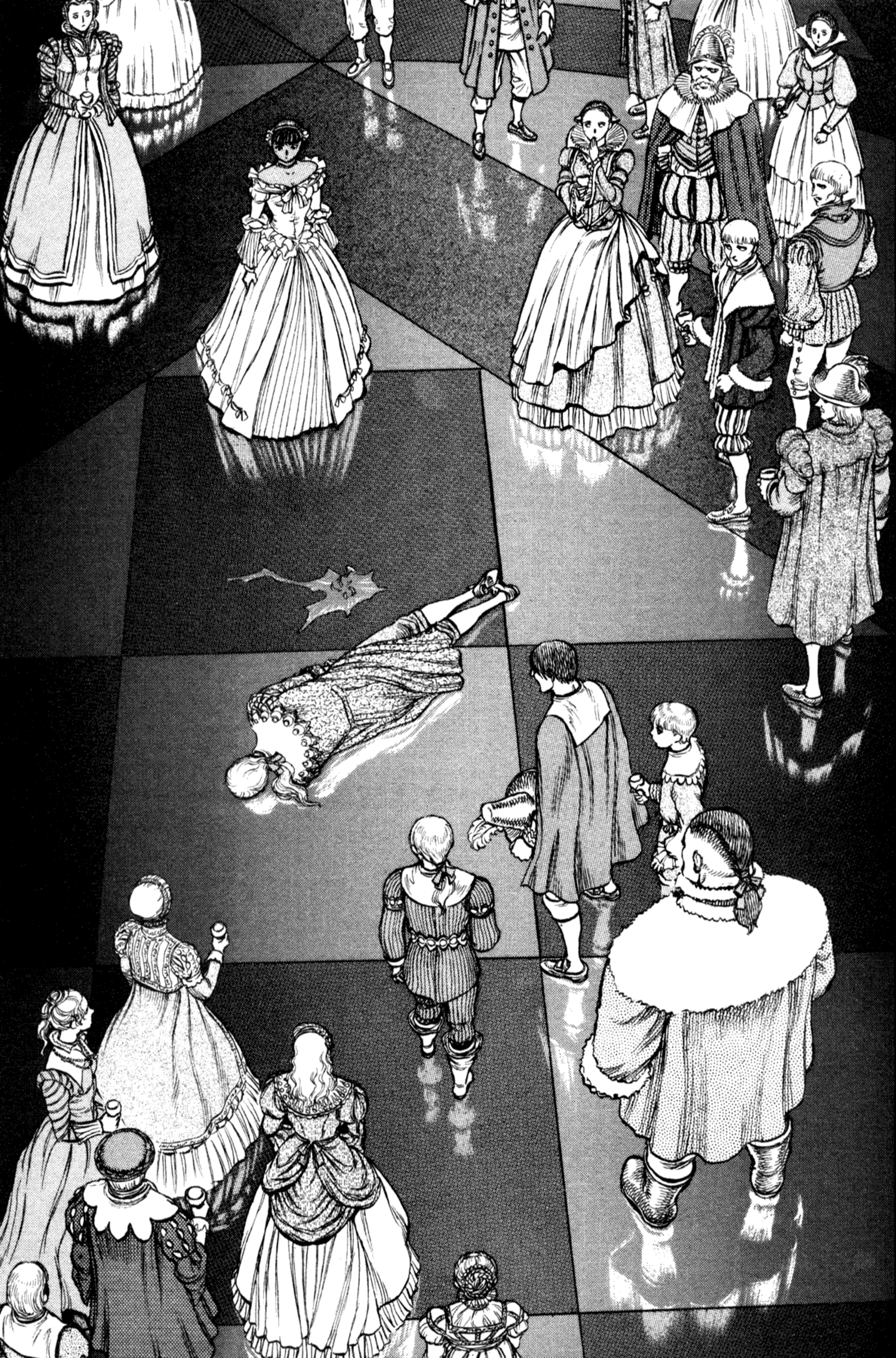








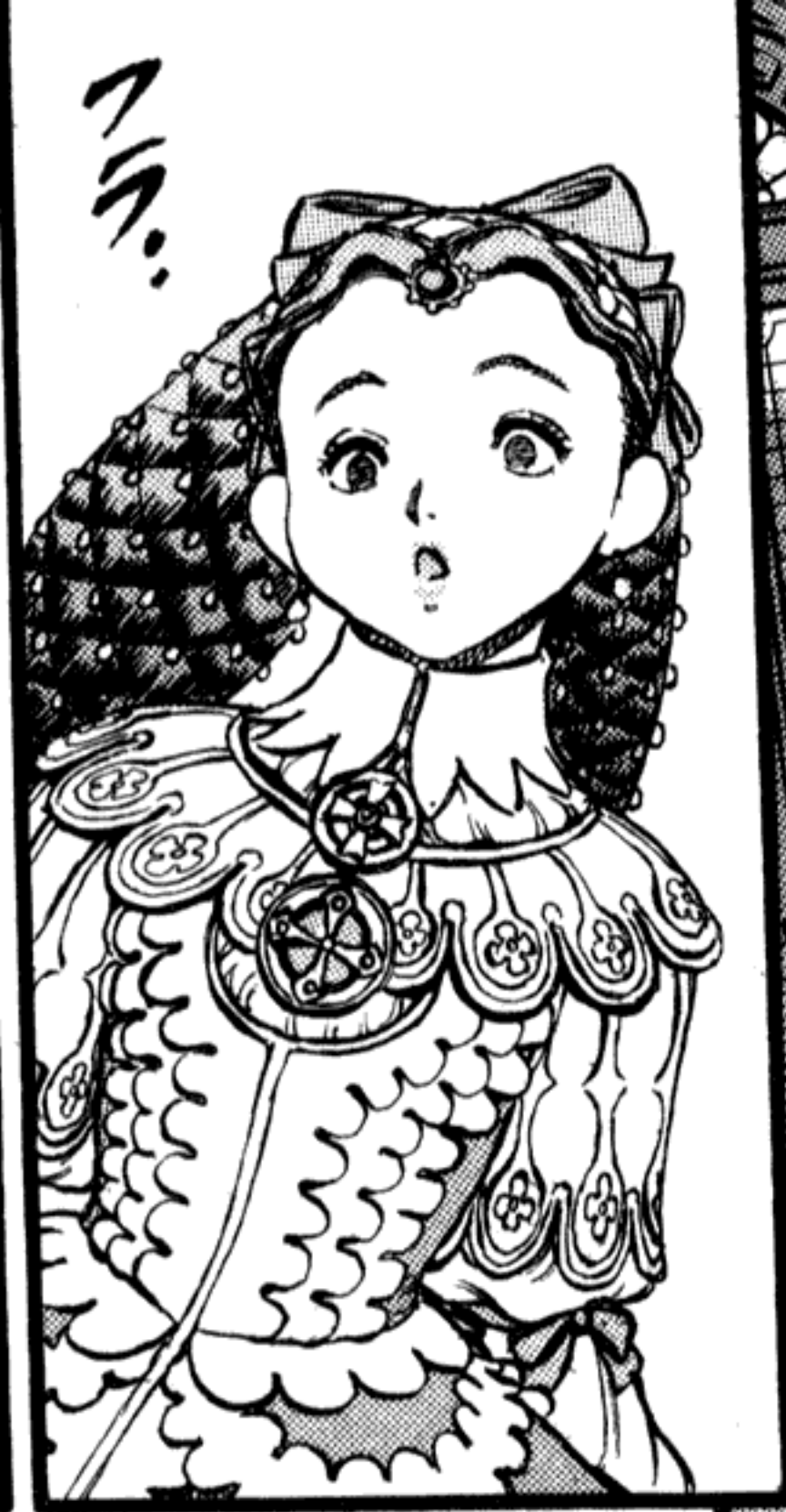


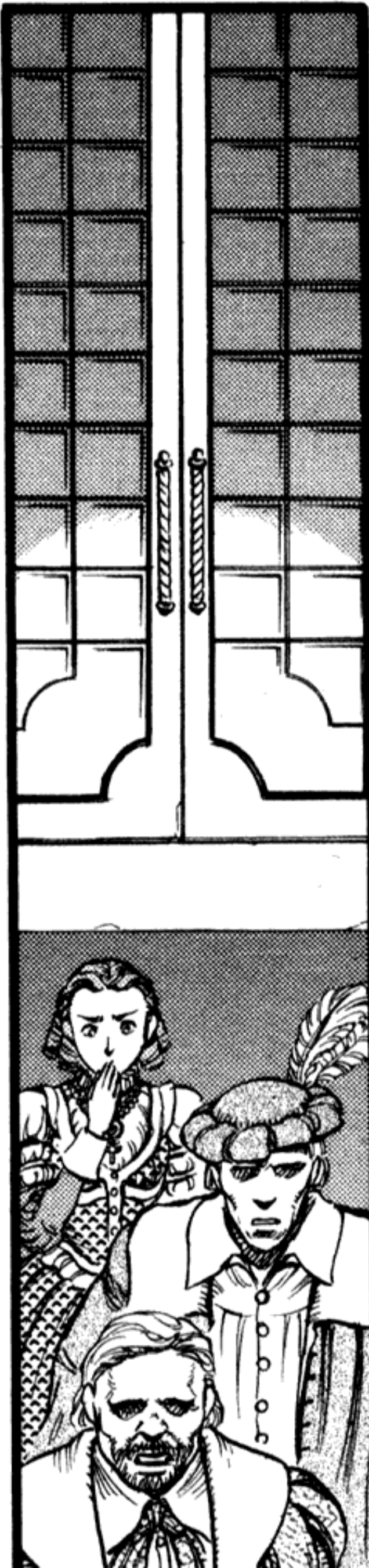
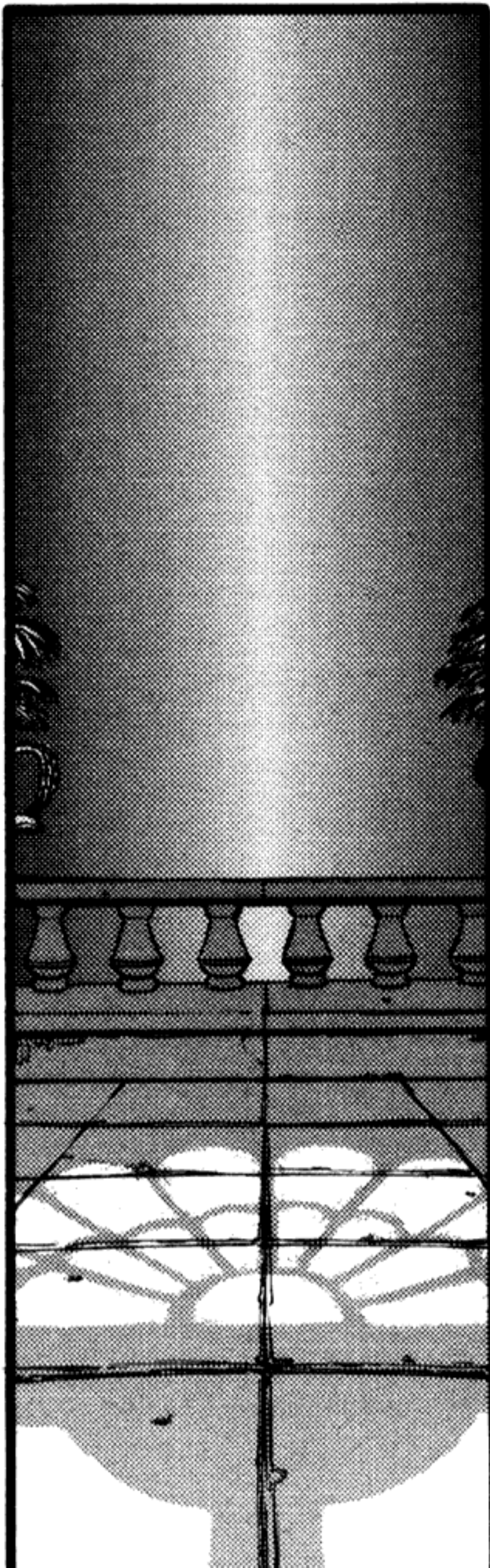
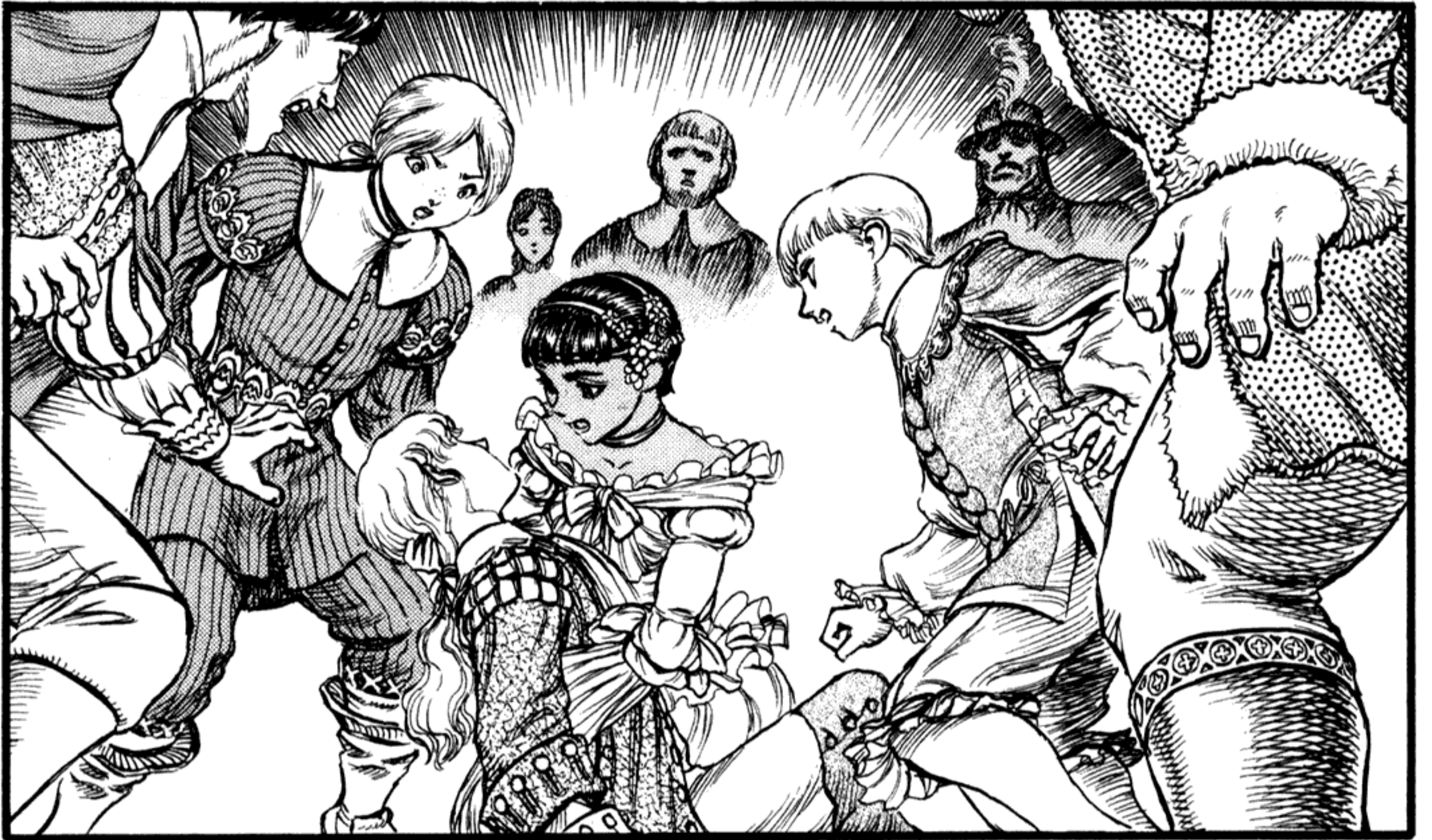


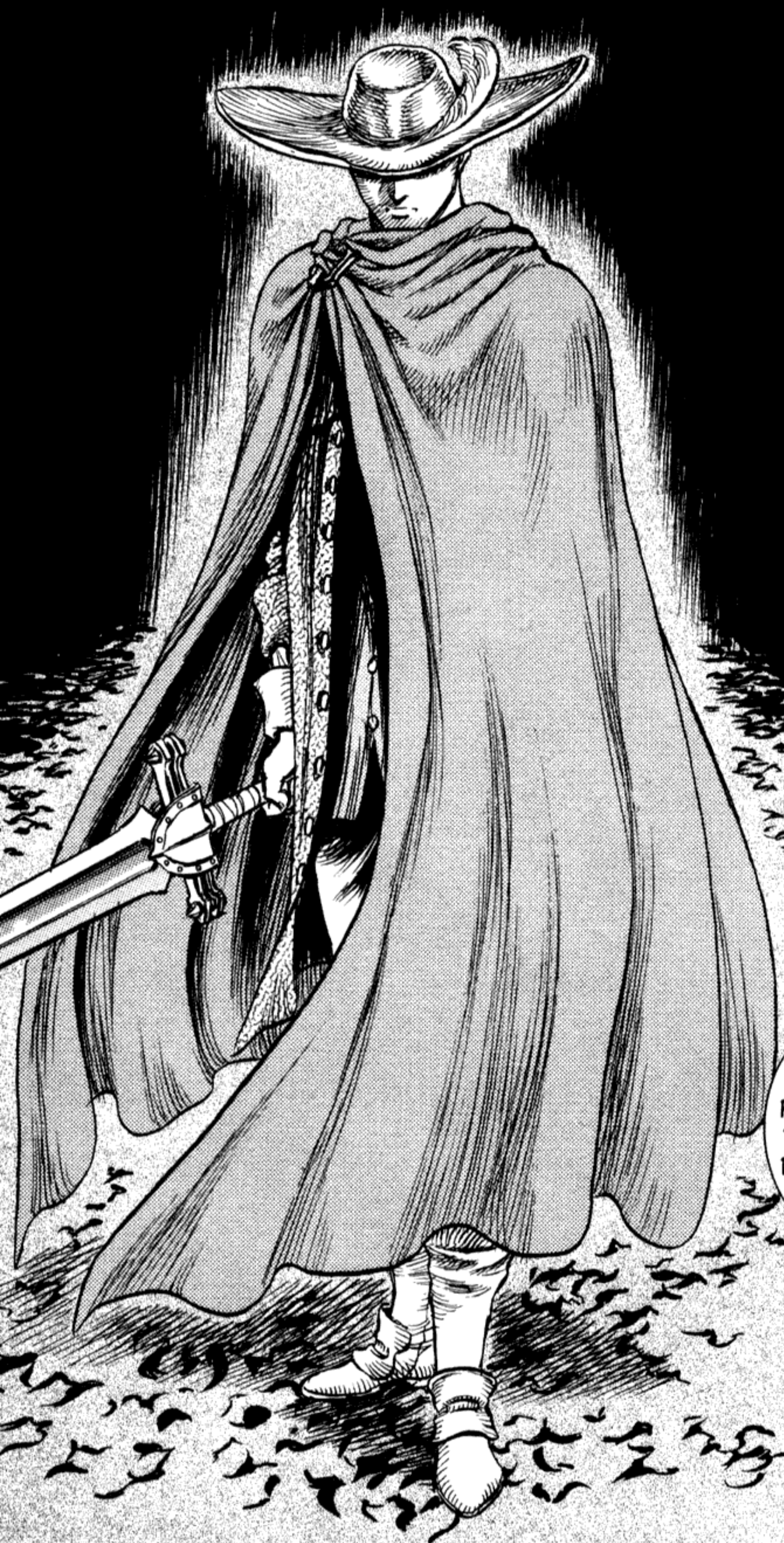
GRIFFITH!

GRI...
FFITH...?









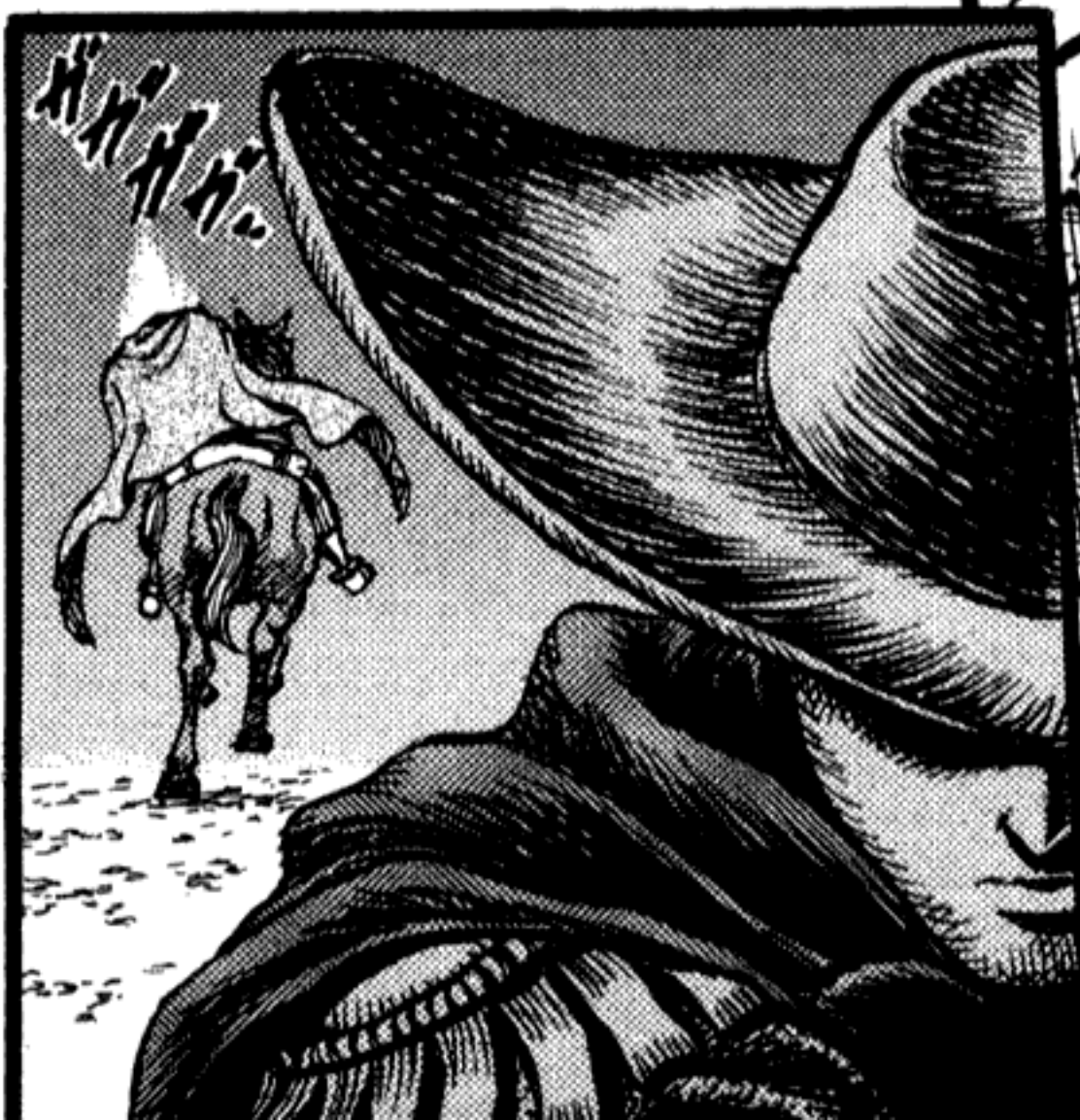
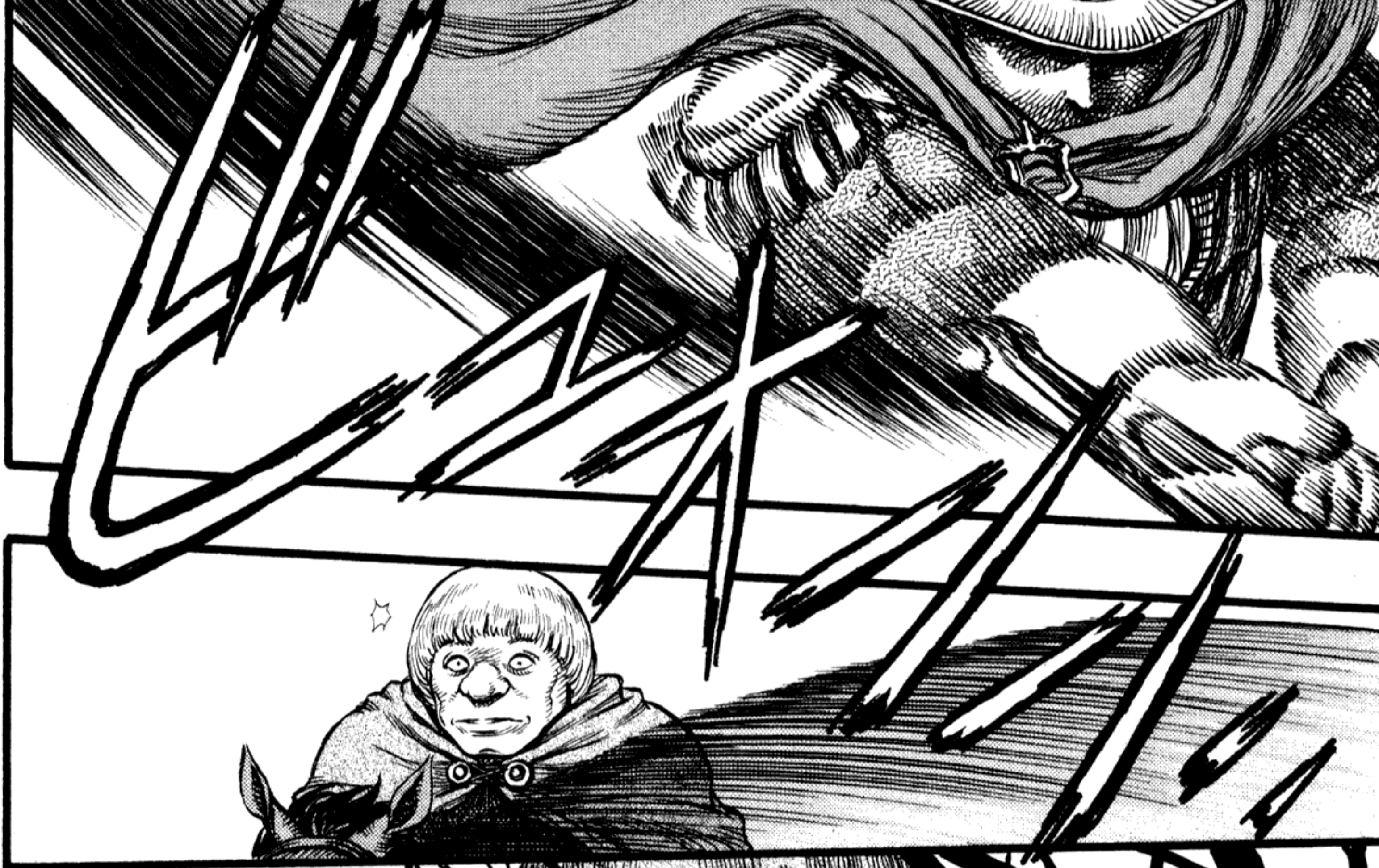
...THAN
COMMONERS
LIKE US COULD
GET FROM TEN
YEARS OF
HONEST
WORK.

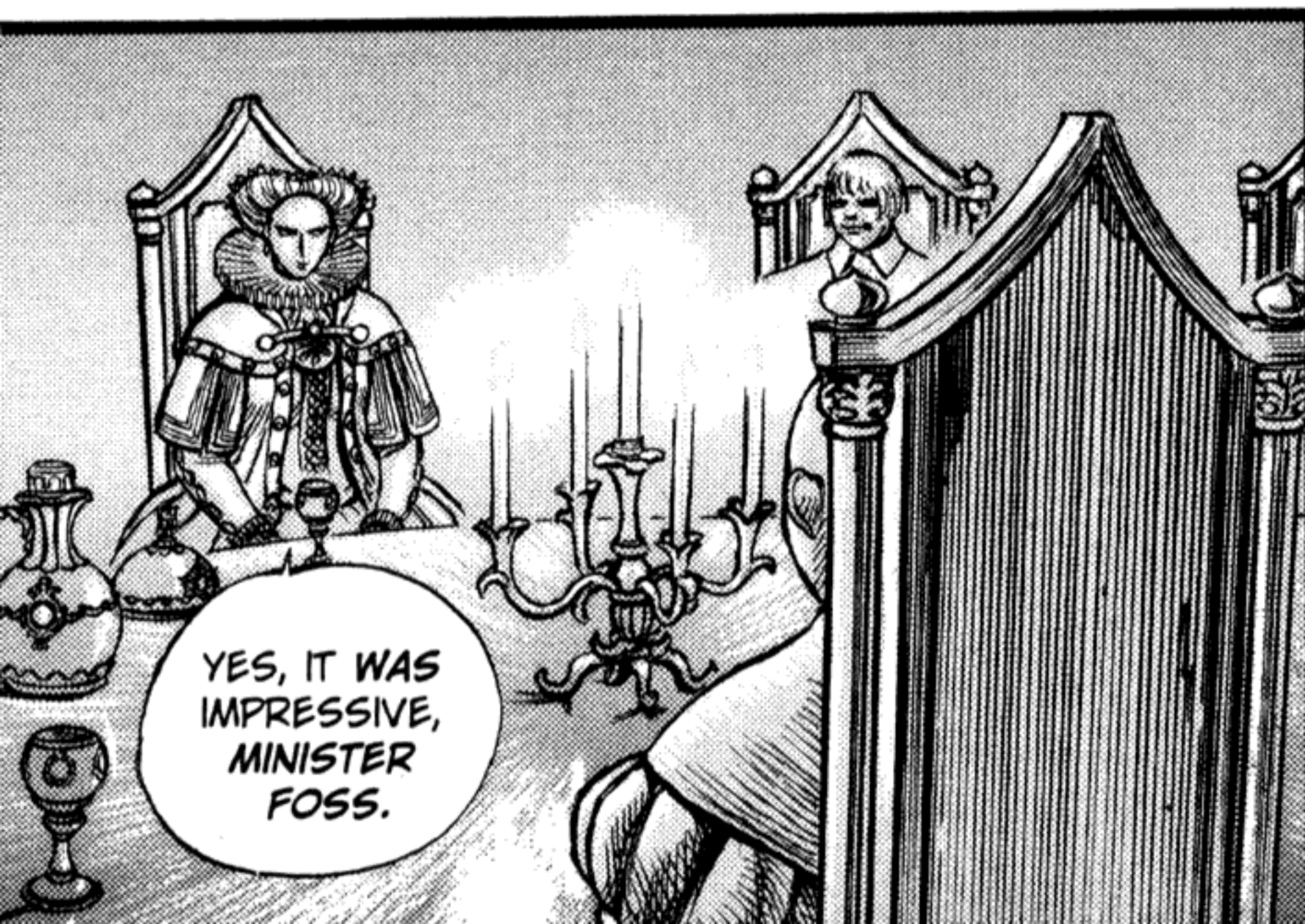
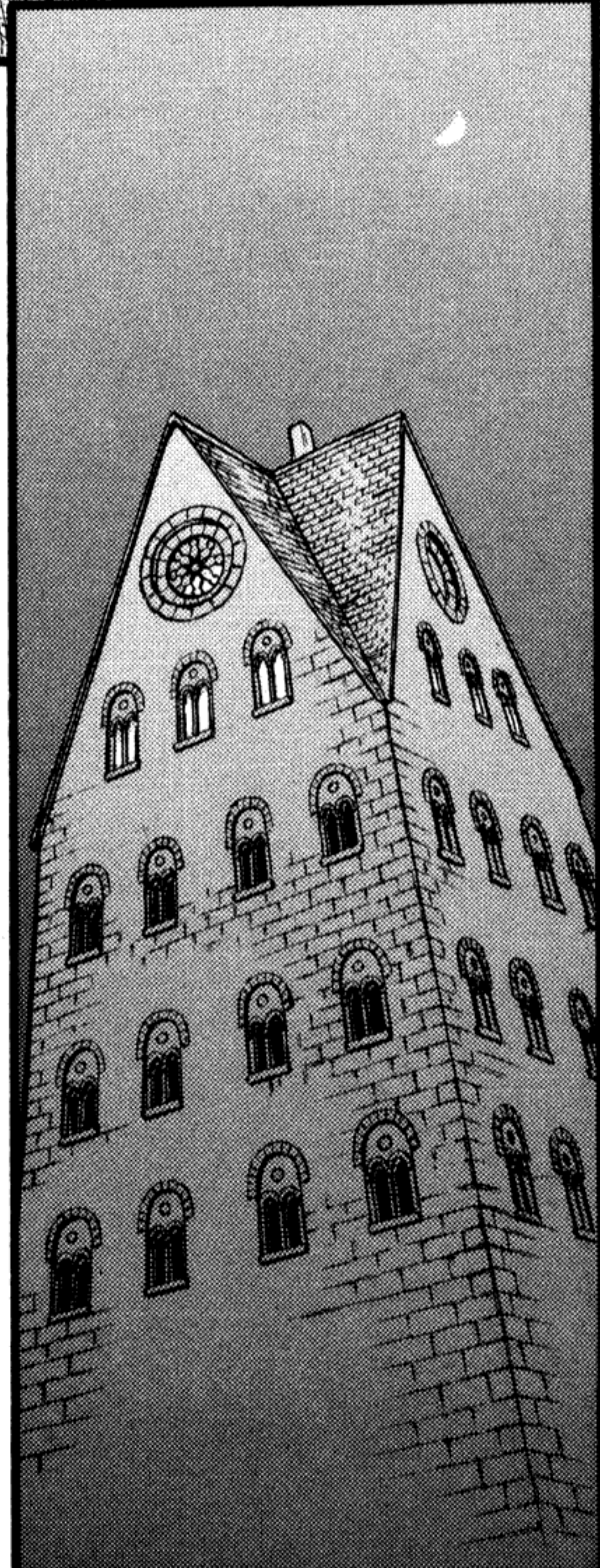
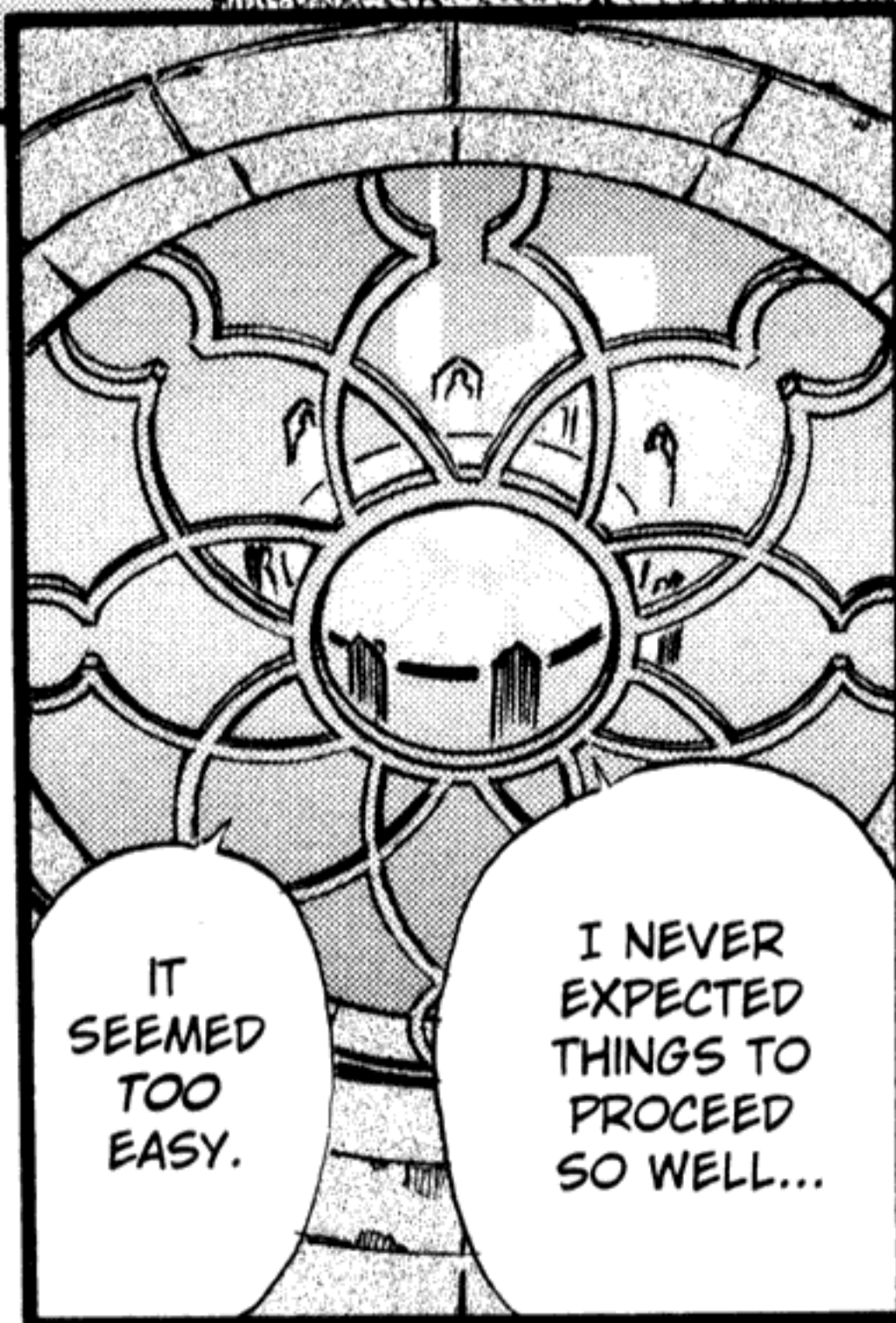
HEHEH. THAT WAS
EASY. I JUST
MADE MORE
MONEY ...

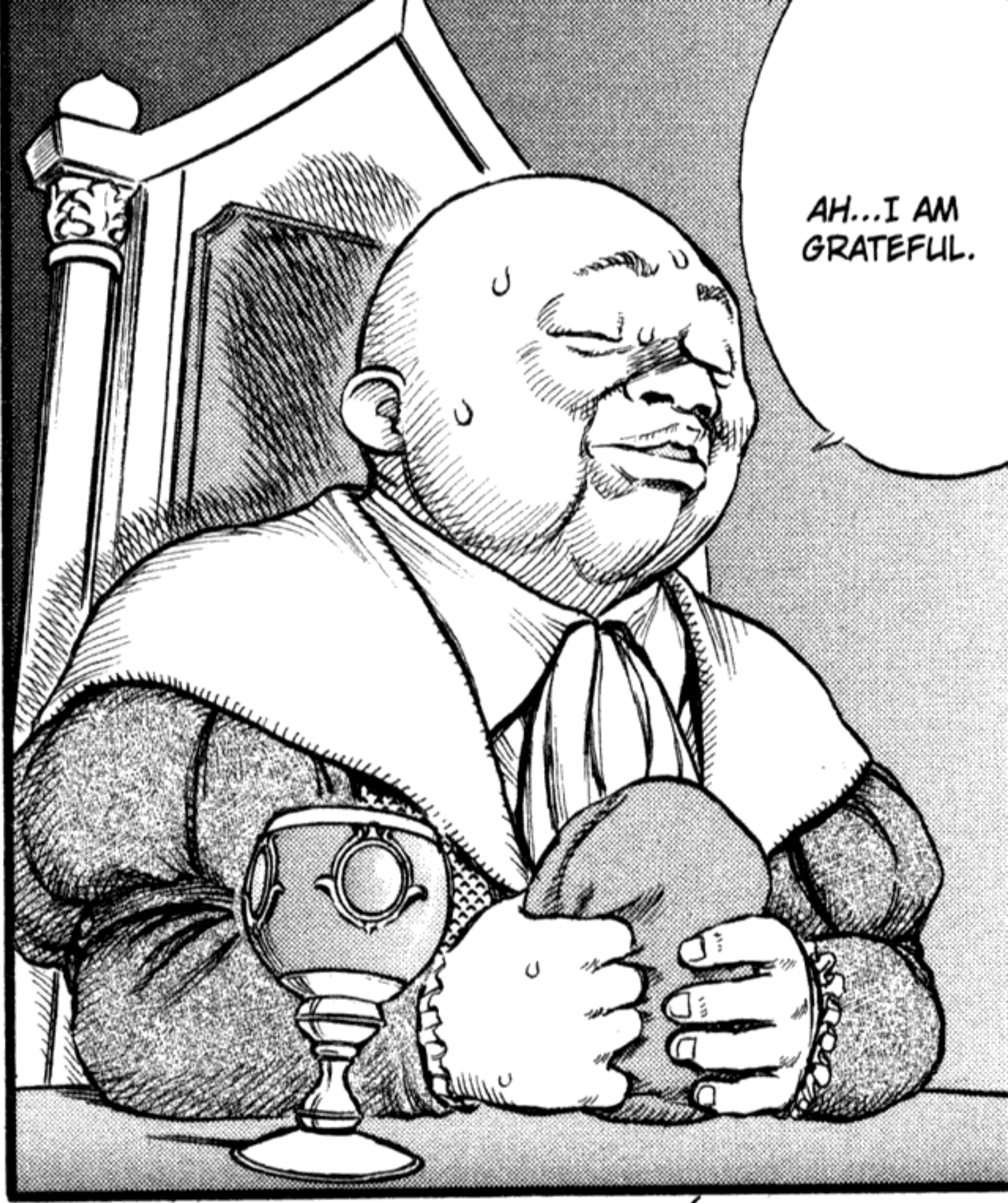
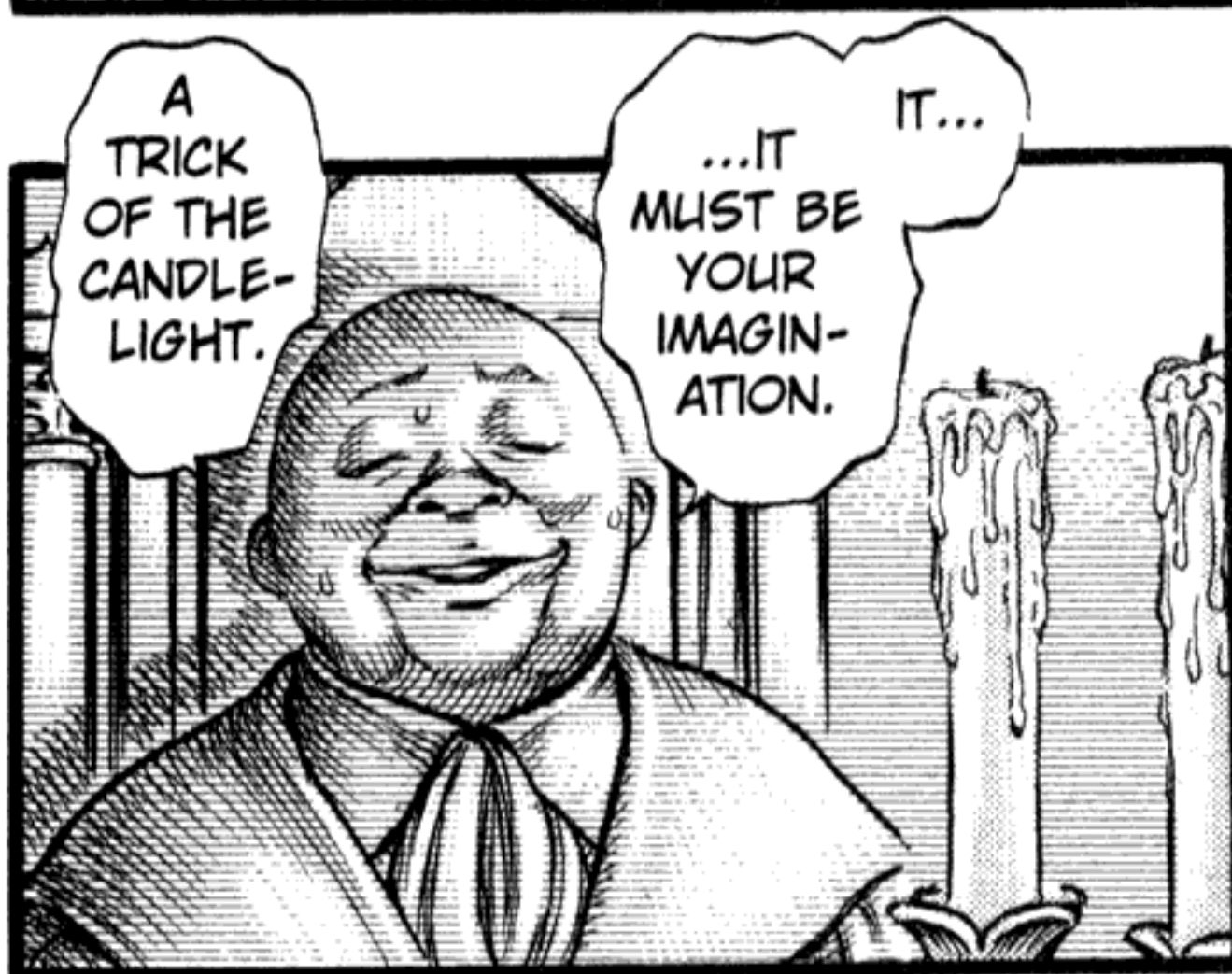
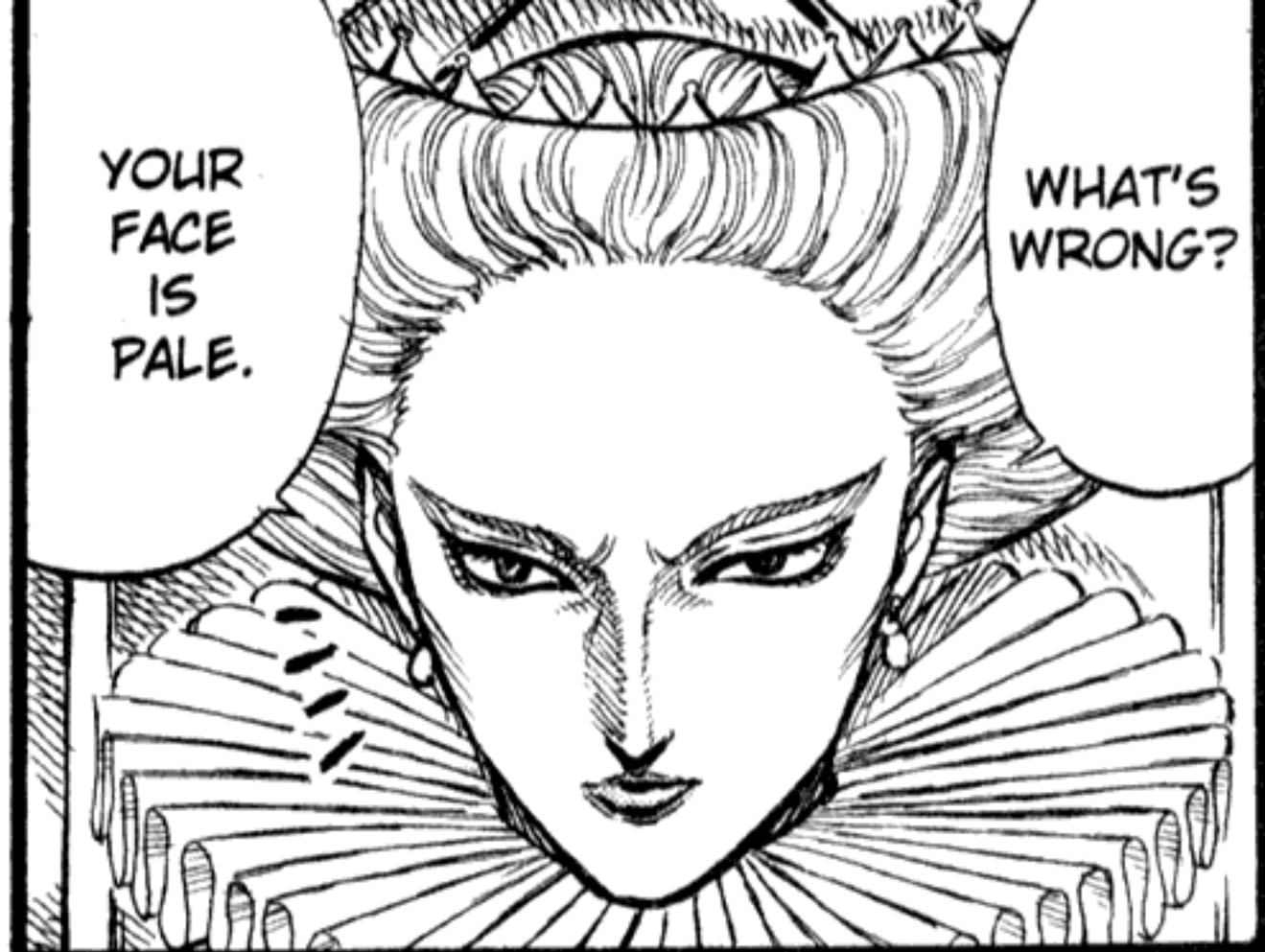
THIS MEANS
FAREWELL TO
THAT BORING
DISHWASHING
JOB.

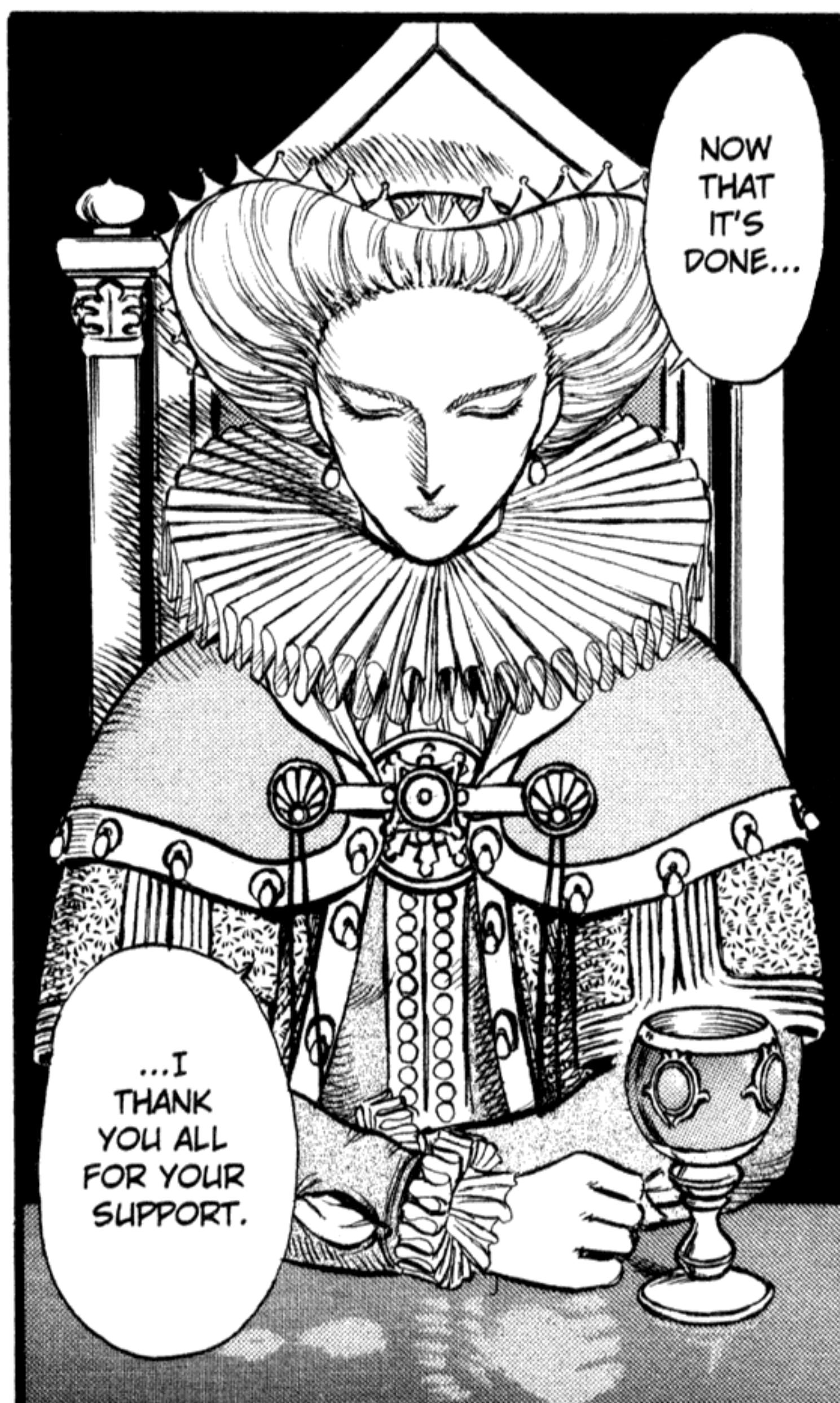
HN?
I JUST NEED
TO GET AWAY
FROM THE CITY
TONIGHT...





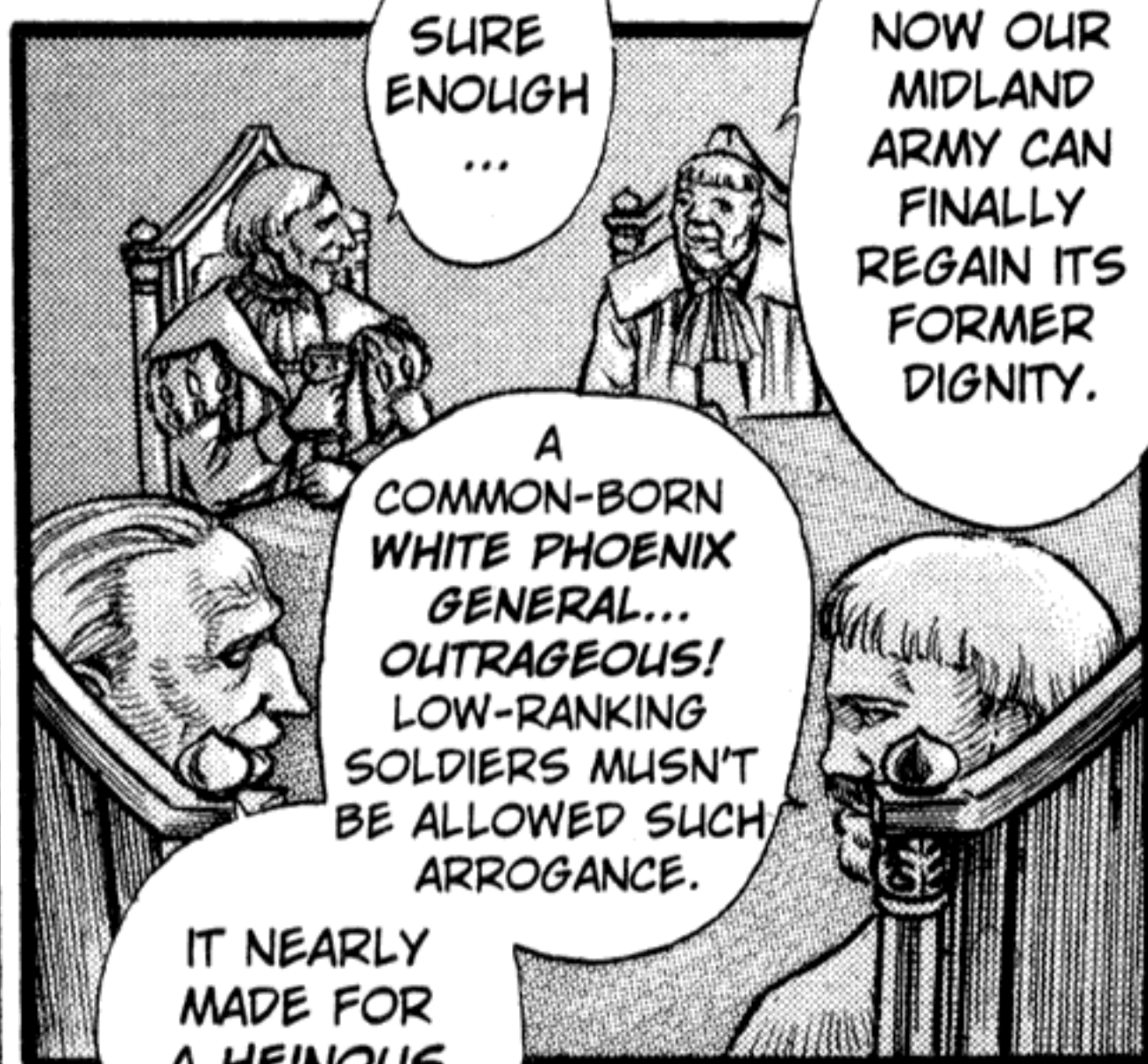






NOW
THAT
IT'S
DONE...

...I
THANK
YOU ALL
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT.



SURE
ENOUGH
...

NOW OUR
MIDLAND
ARMY CAN
FINALLY
REGAIN ITS
FORMER
DIGNITY.

A
COMMON-BORN
WHITE PHOENIX
GENERAL...
OUTRAGEOUS!
LOW-RANKING
SOLDIERS MUSTN'T
BE ALLOWED SUCH
ARROGANCE.

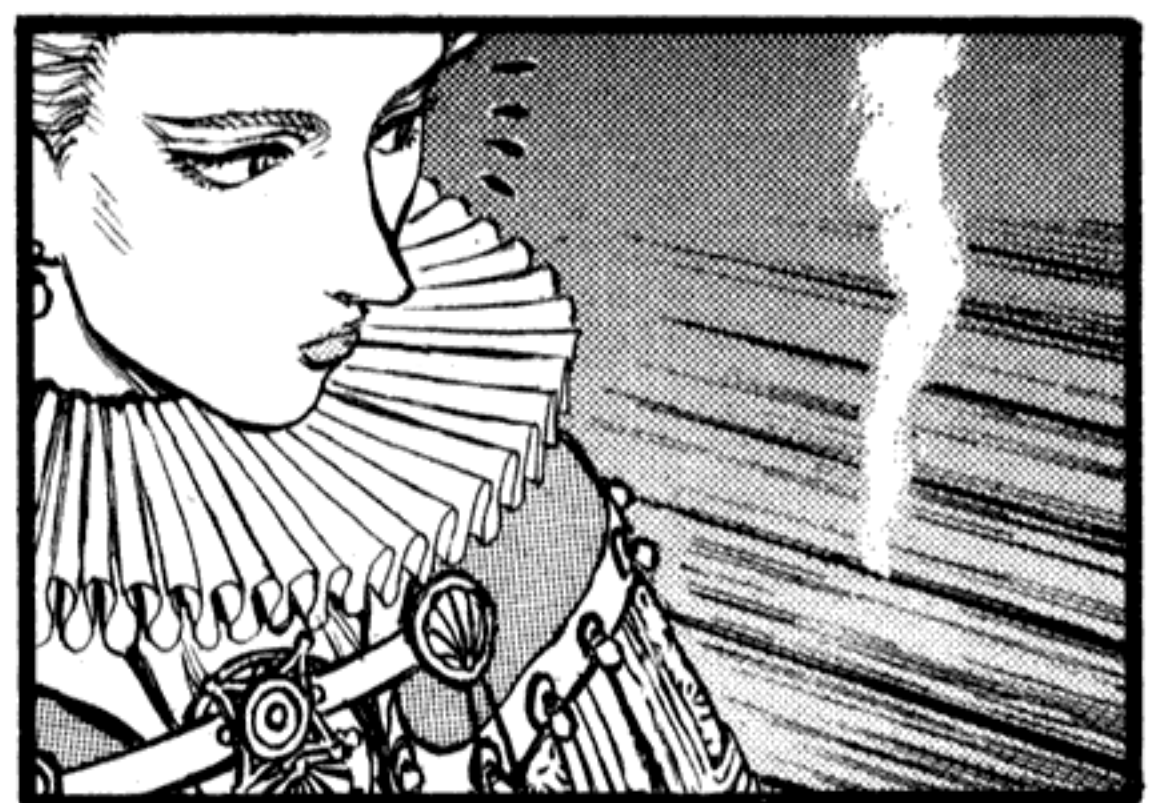
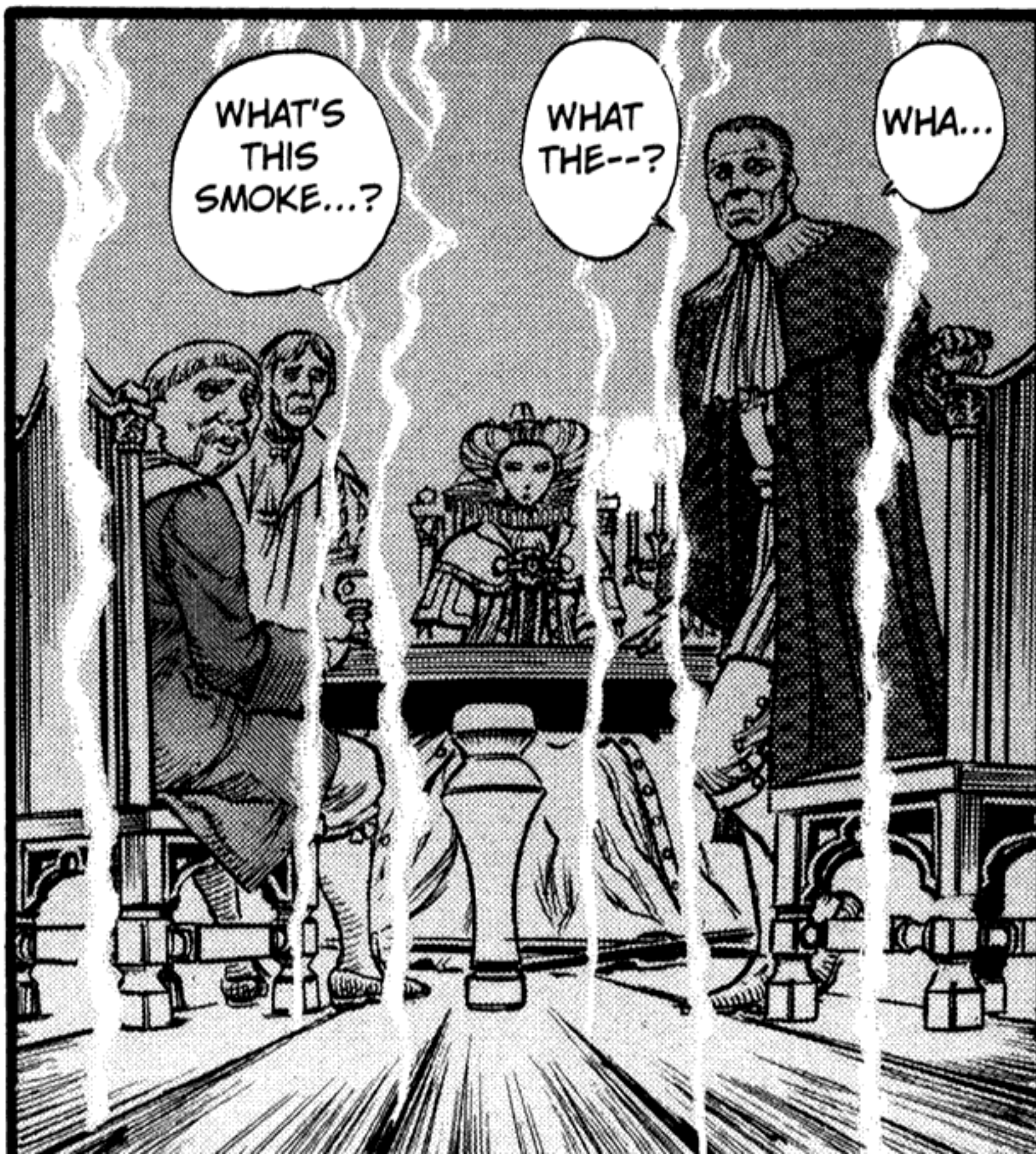
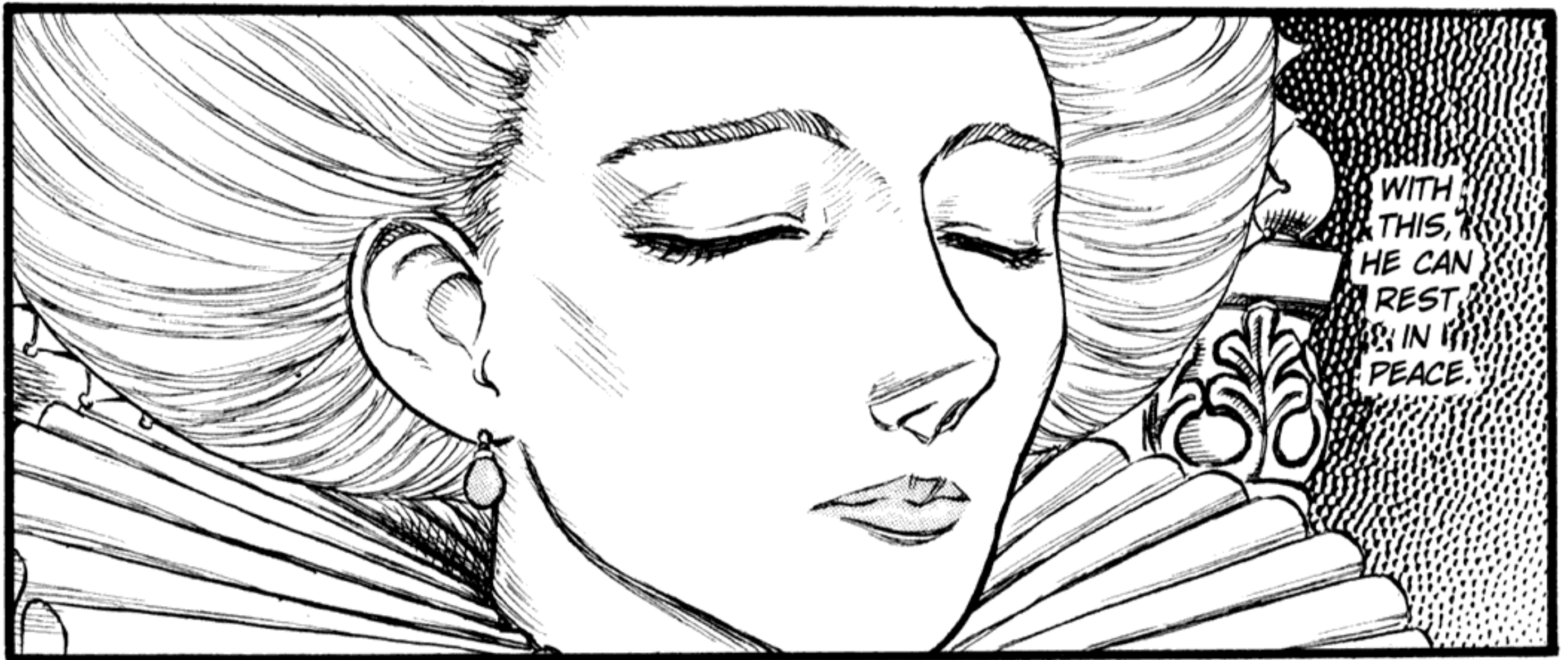
IT NEARLY
MADE FOR
A HEINOUS
PRECEDENT.

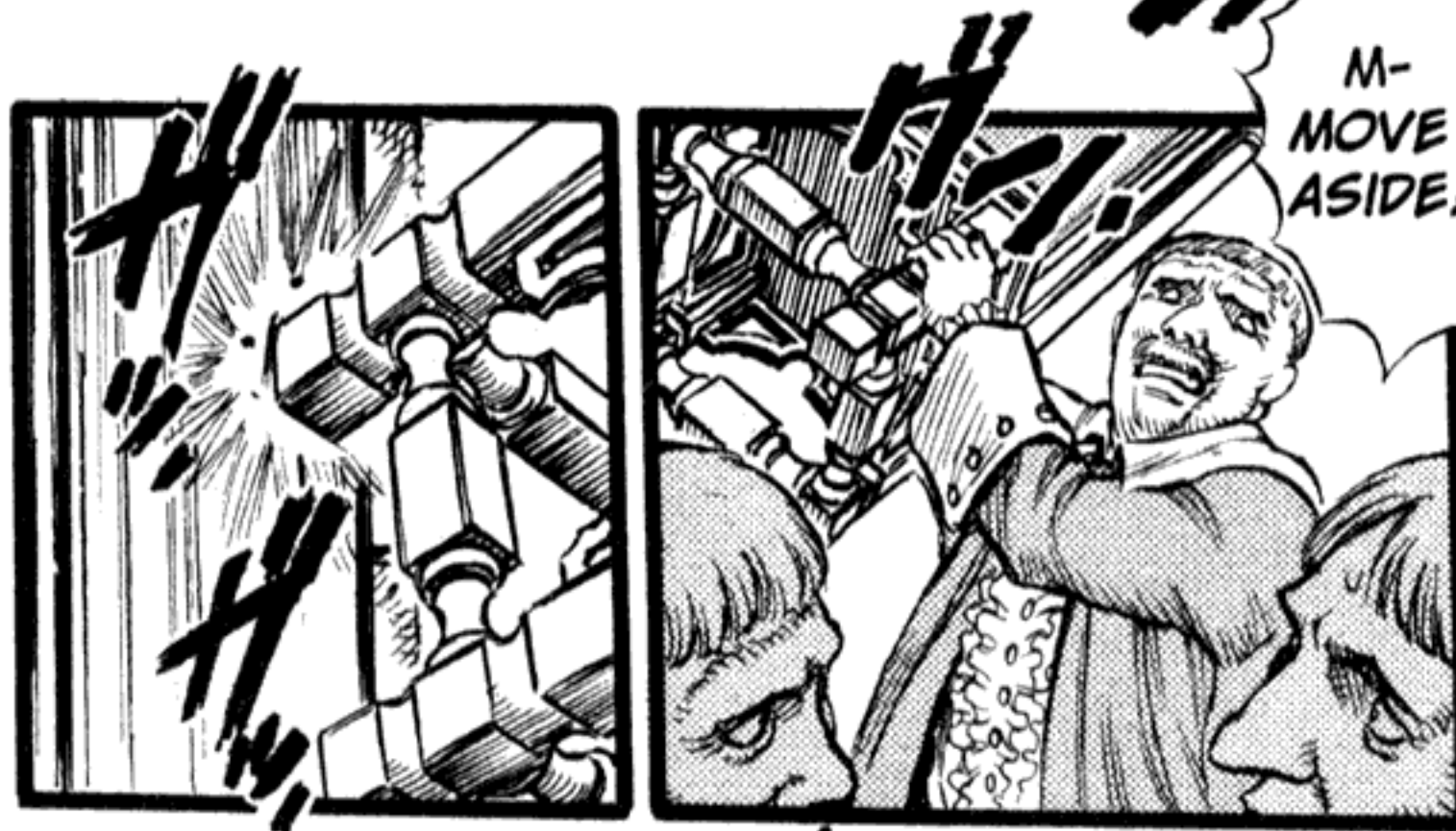
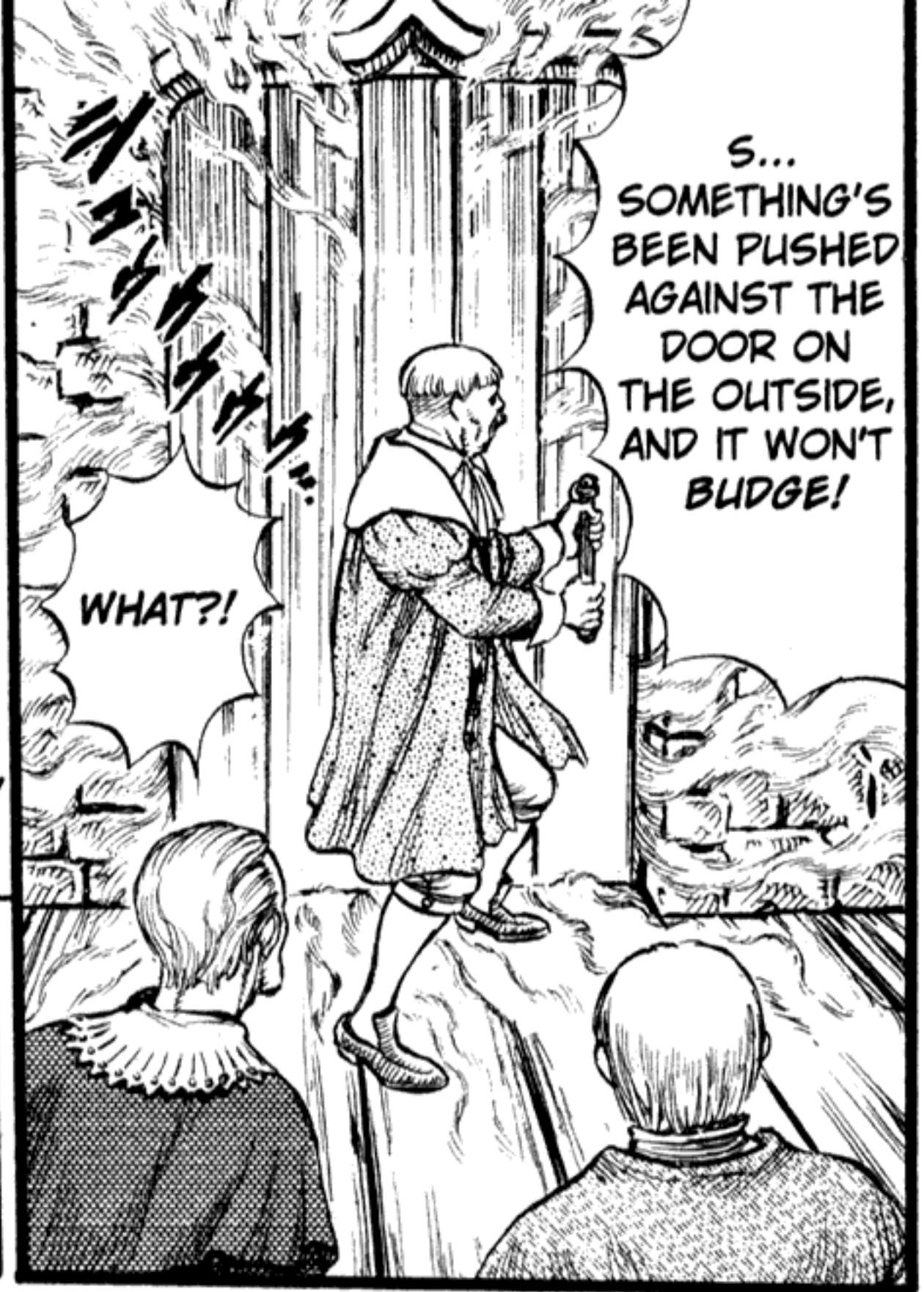


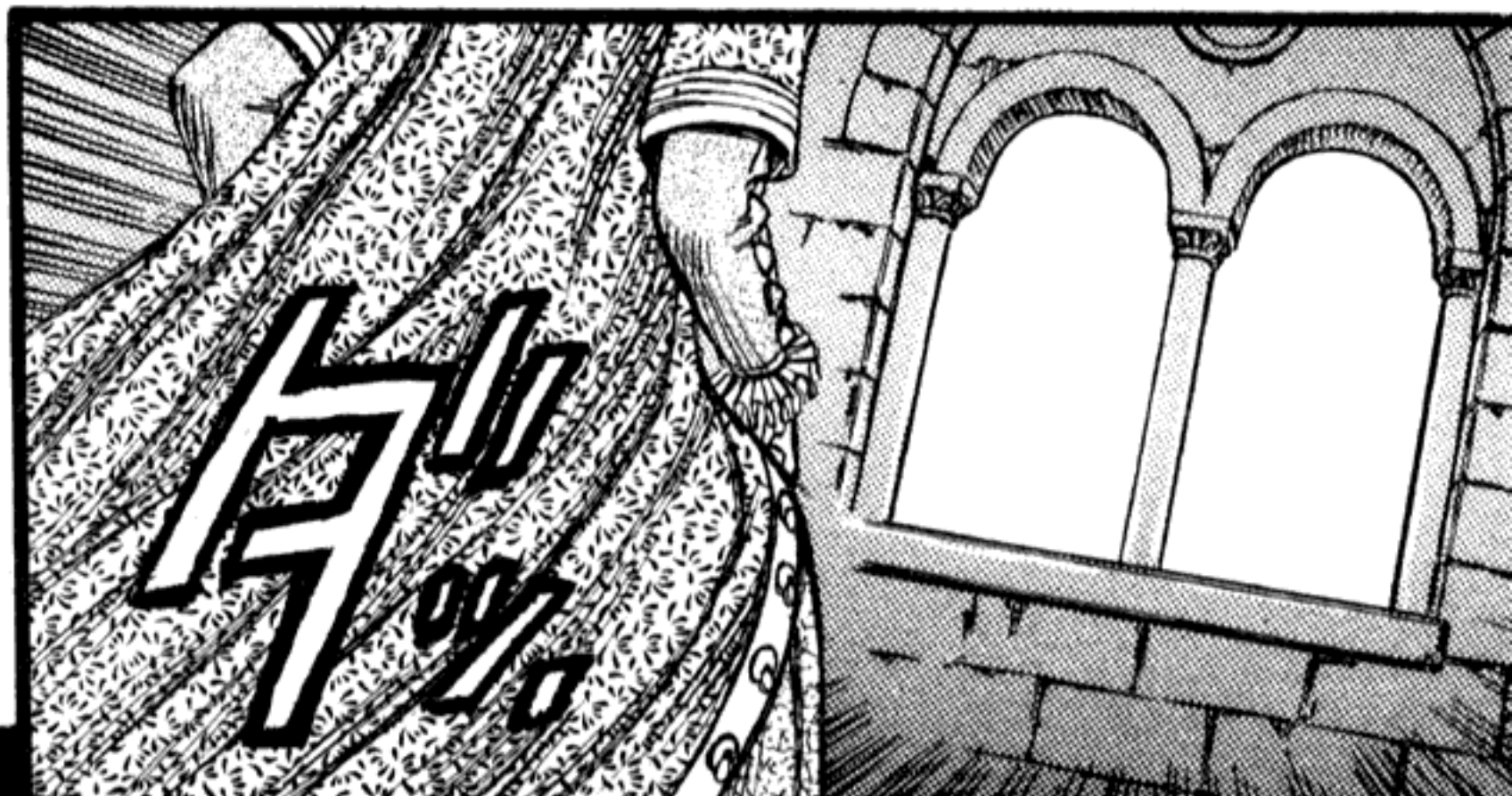
AND YET
THAT MAN
OF HUMBLE
ORIGINS
TRIED TO...
WHAT DO
THE PEOPLE
KNOW ABOUT
RULING A
KINGDOM?!

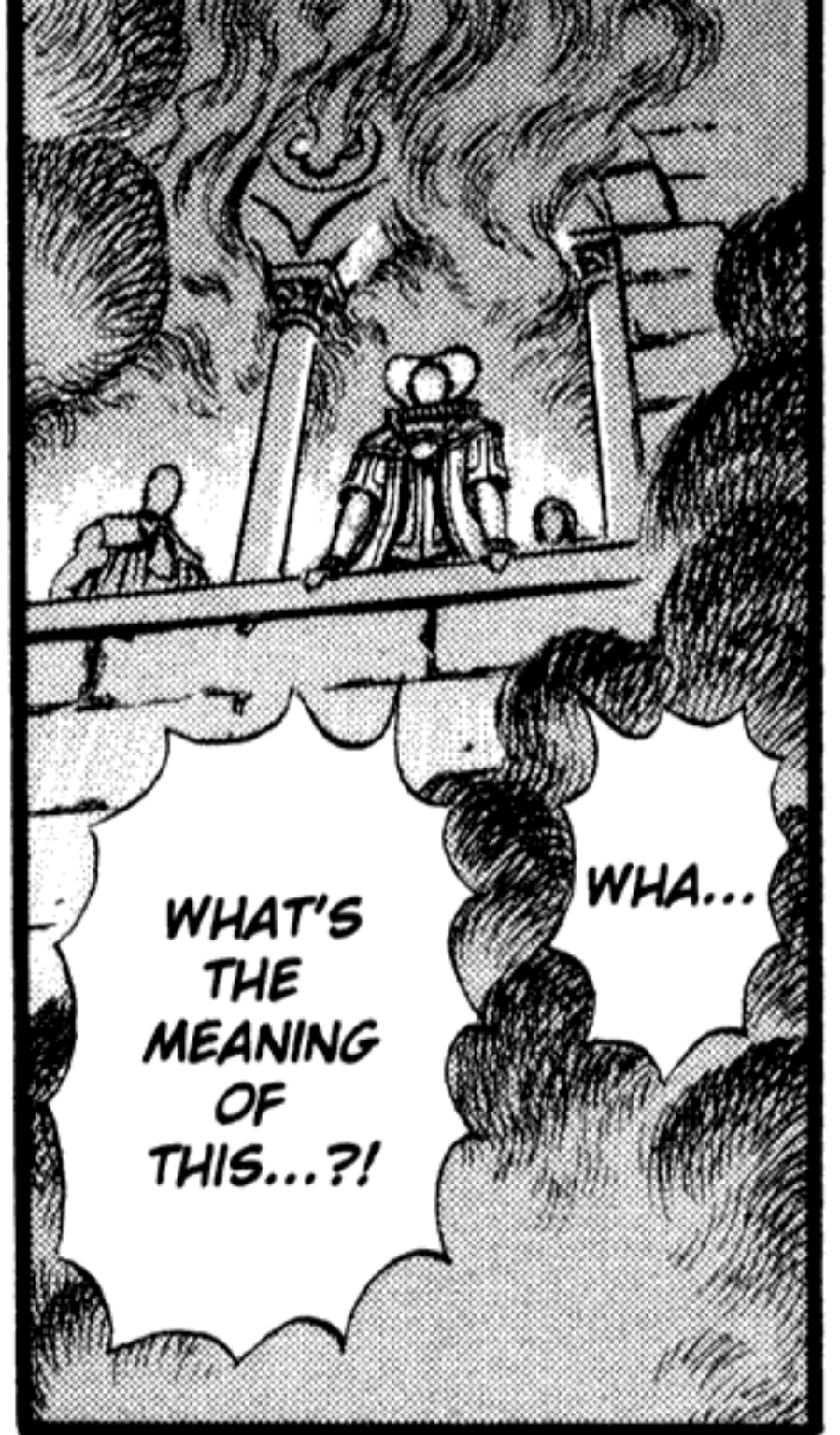
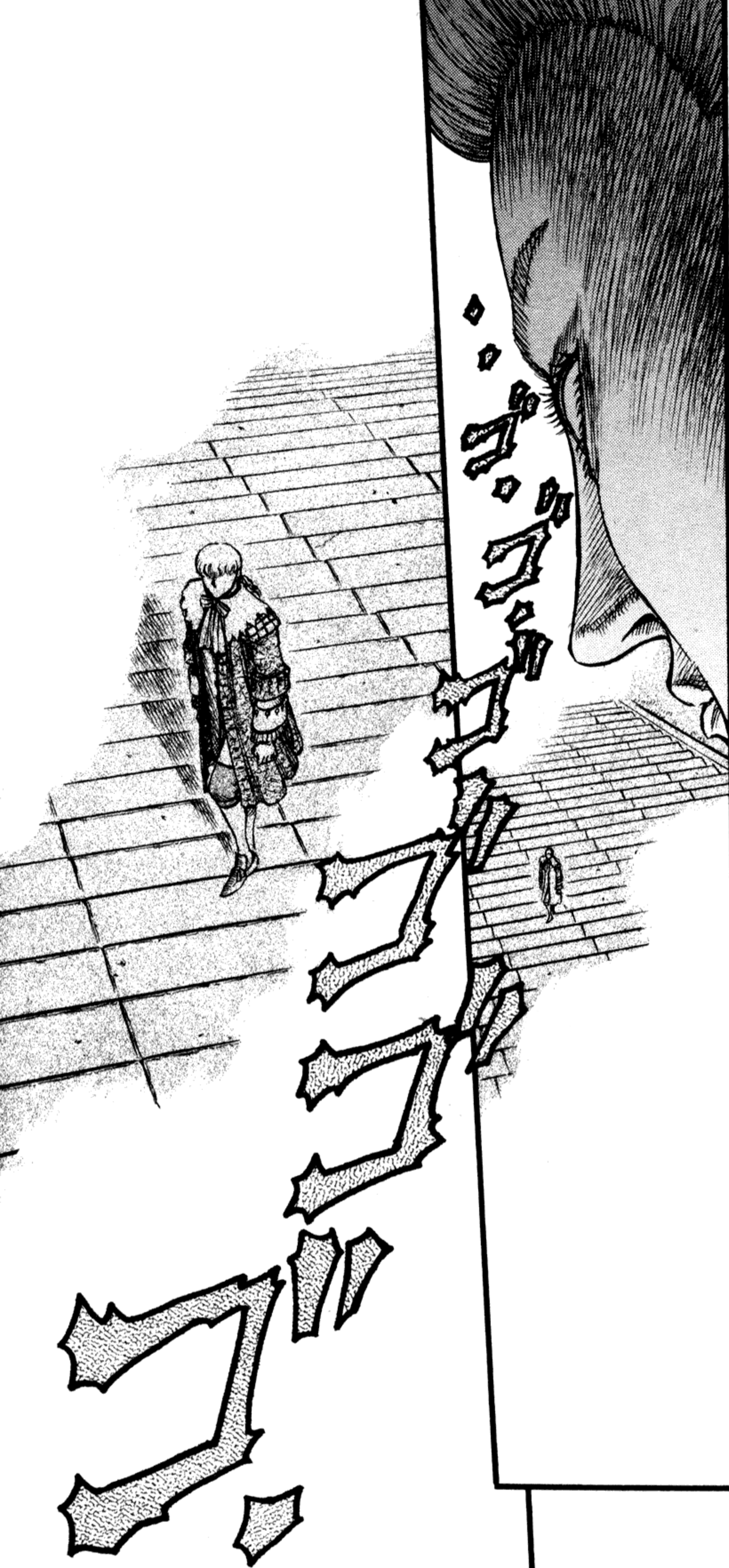
WE ALMOST
BECAME THE
LAUGHINGSTOCK
OF THE WORLD.

THE
CENTER OF
GOVERNMENT
IN THIS
KINGDOM MUST
ALWAYS BE
RESERVED FOR
THOSE OF US
FROM DIGNIFIED
BLOODLINES.



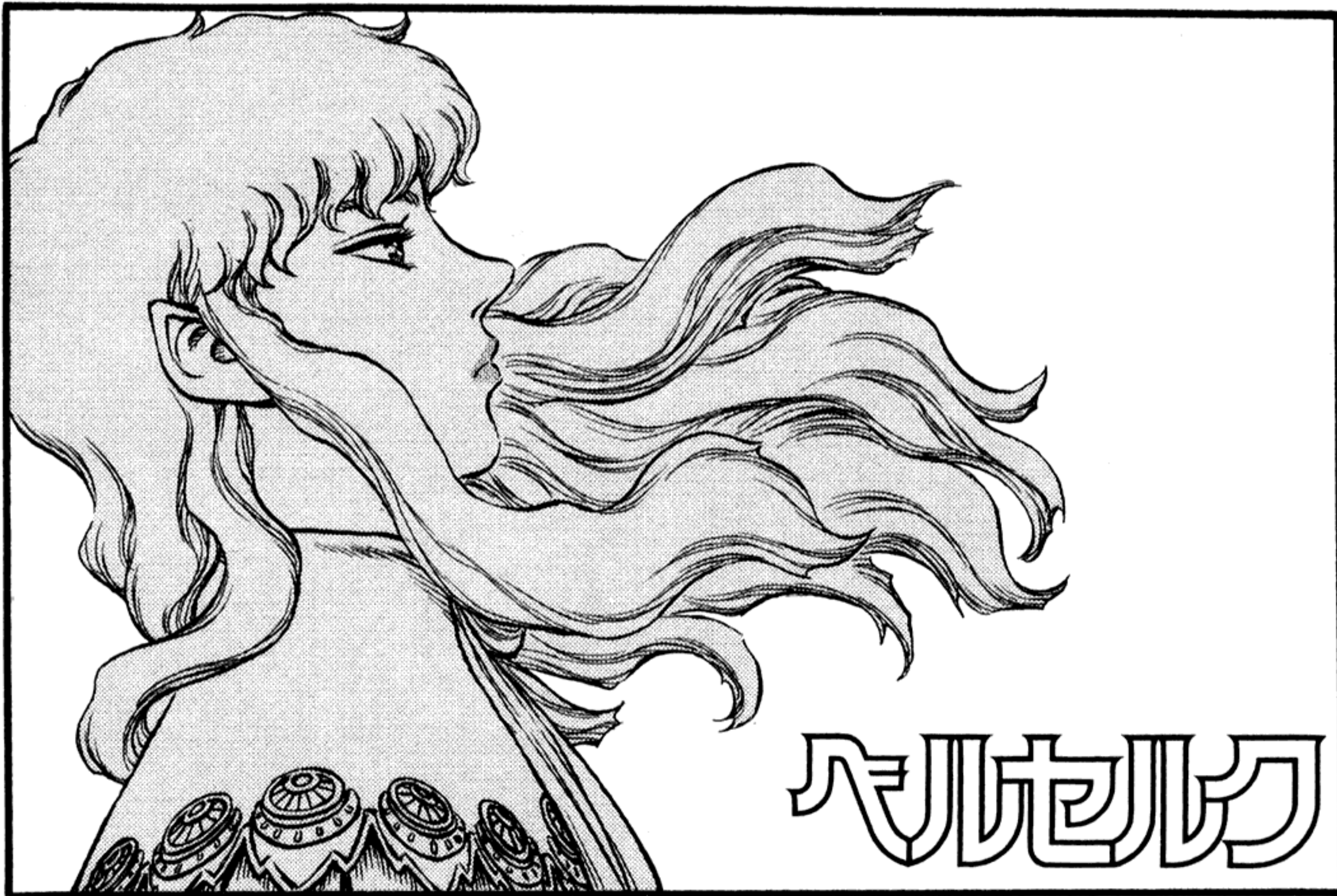
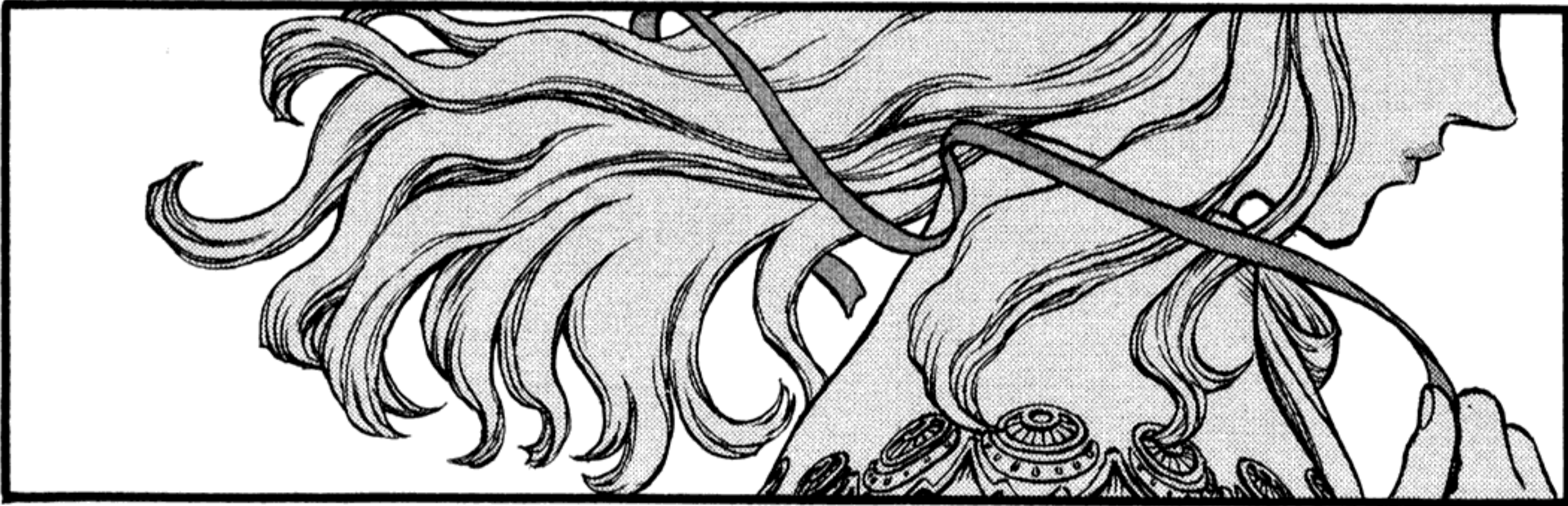








TOMBSTONE OF FLAME (1): END





炎の墓標

炎の墓標

炎の墓標(2)

TOMBSTONE OF FLAME, CHAPTER 2

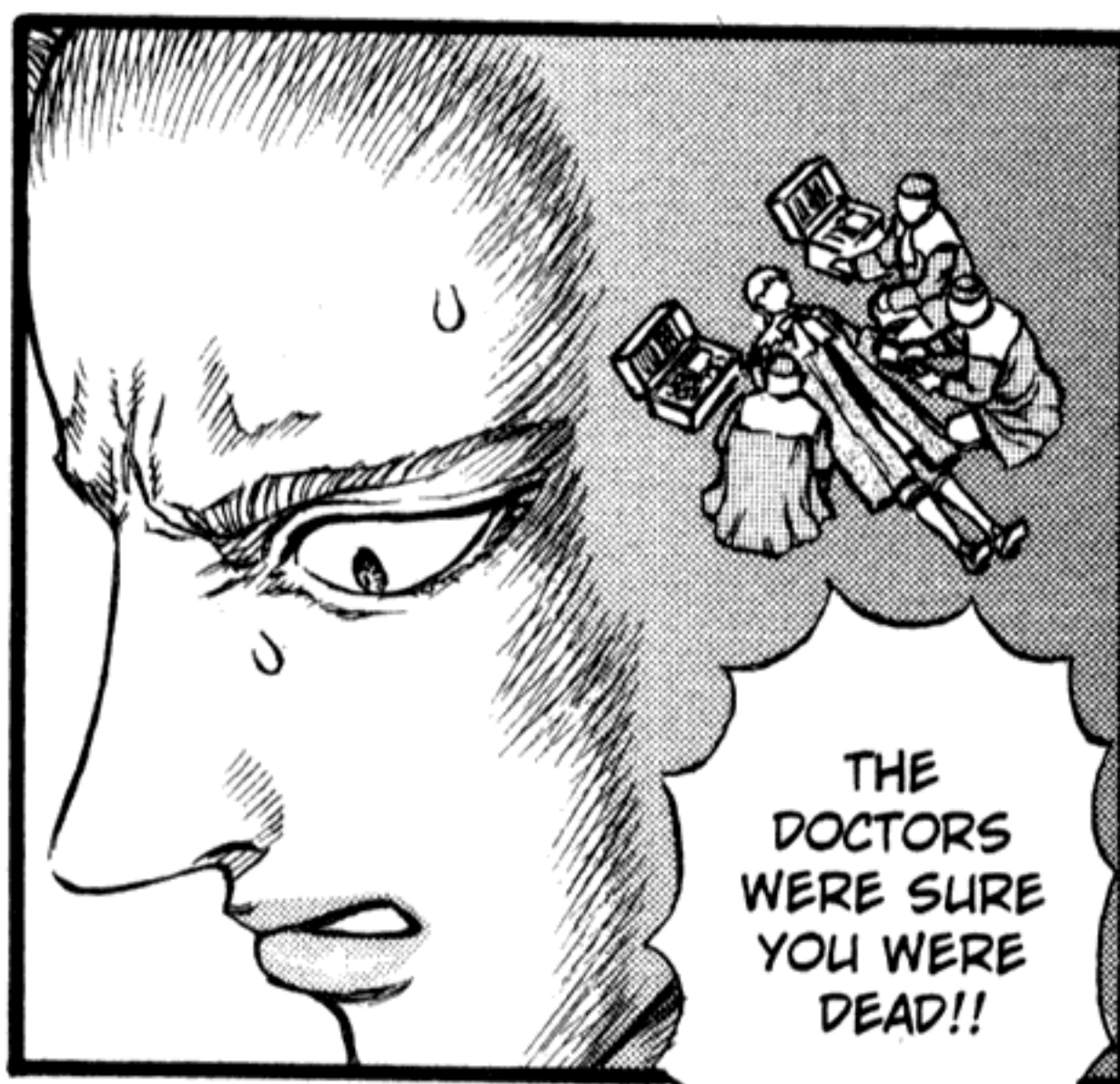


THAT'S
HOW I
ARRANGED
IT.

AND I'M
SURE IT
SEEMED
THAT
WAY.



H-
HOW...?!



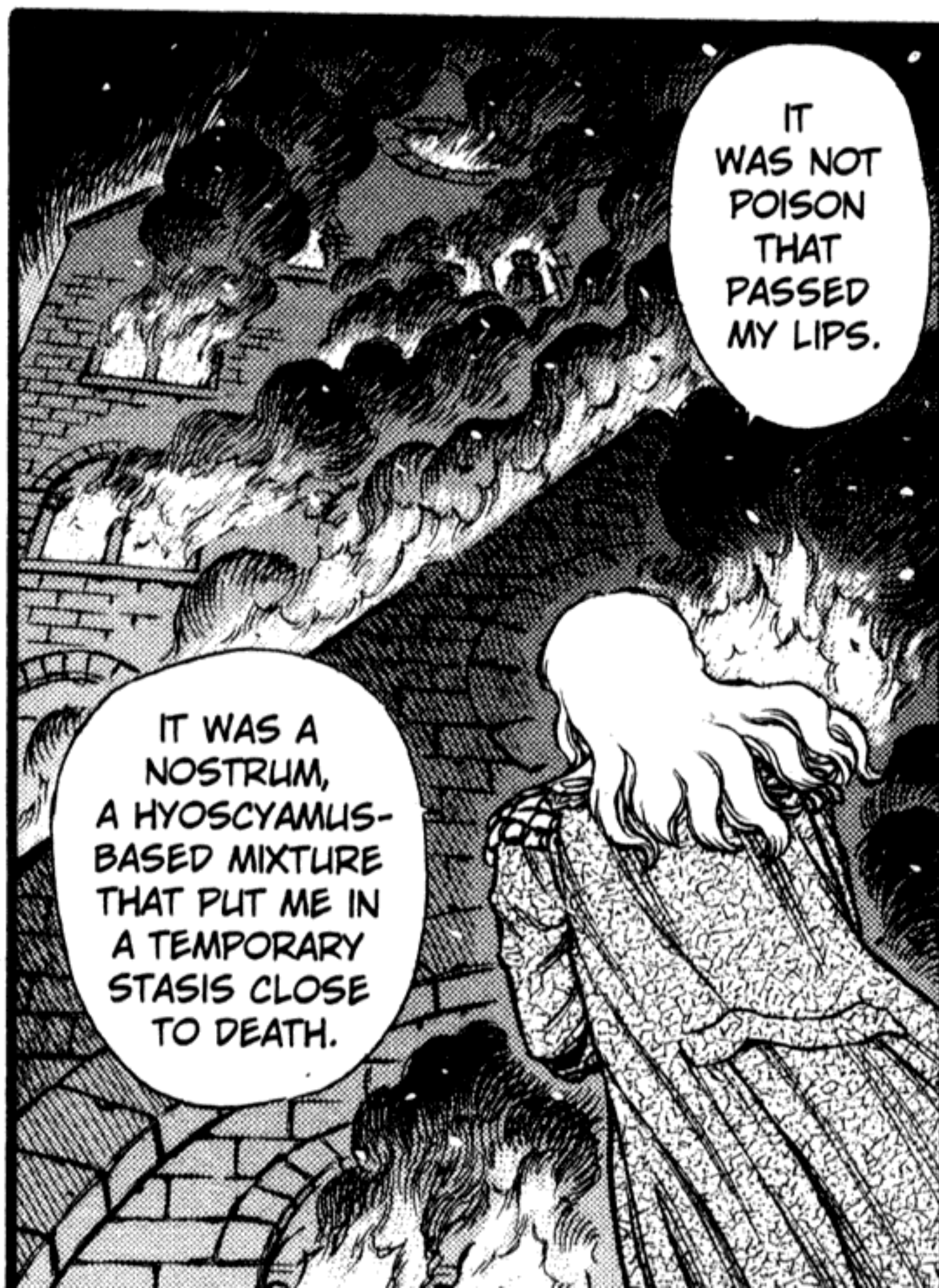
THE
DOCTORS
WERE SURE
YOU WERE
DEAD!!



BUT
IT WAS
WORTH
THE
RISK.

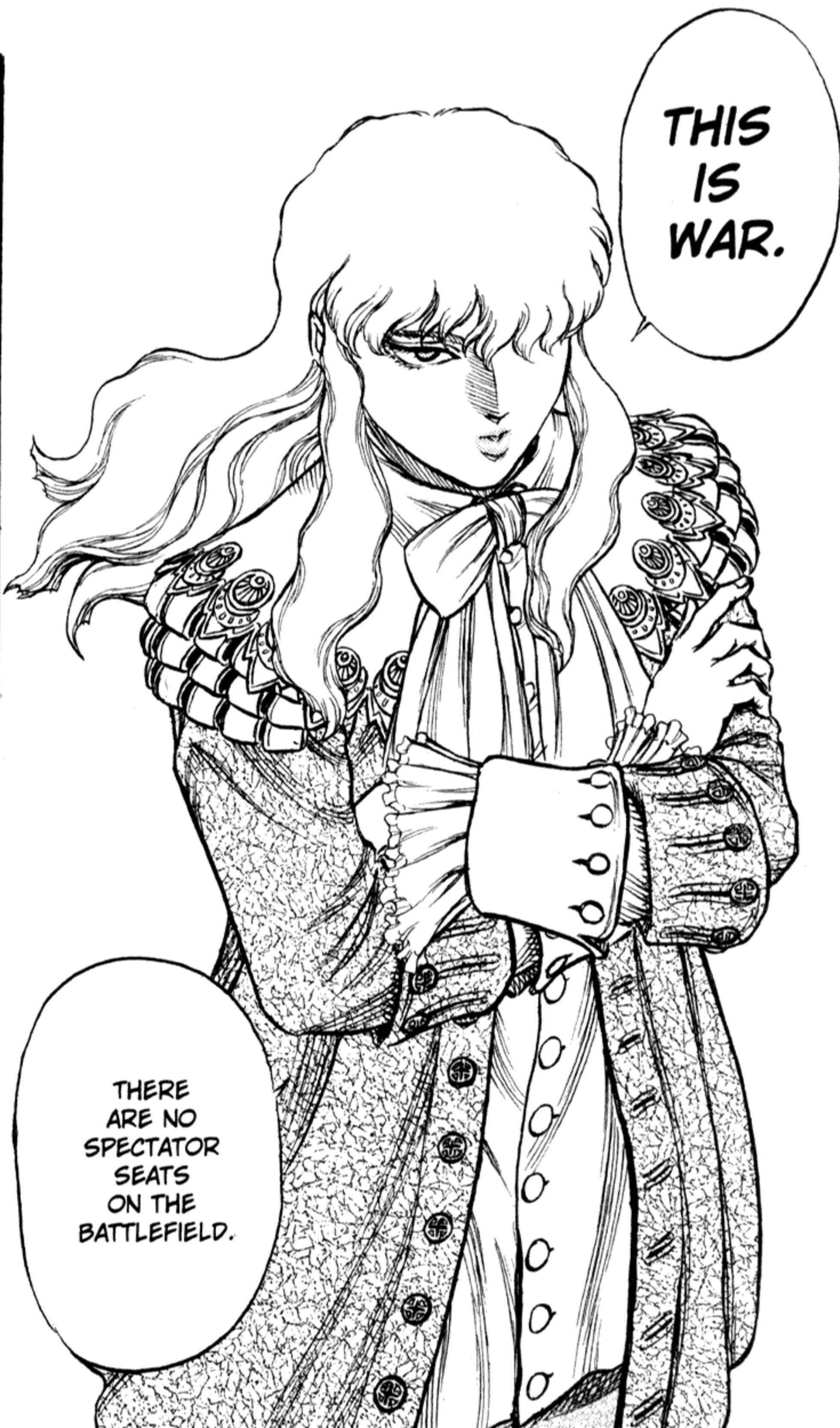
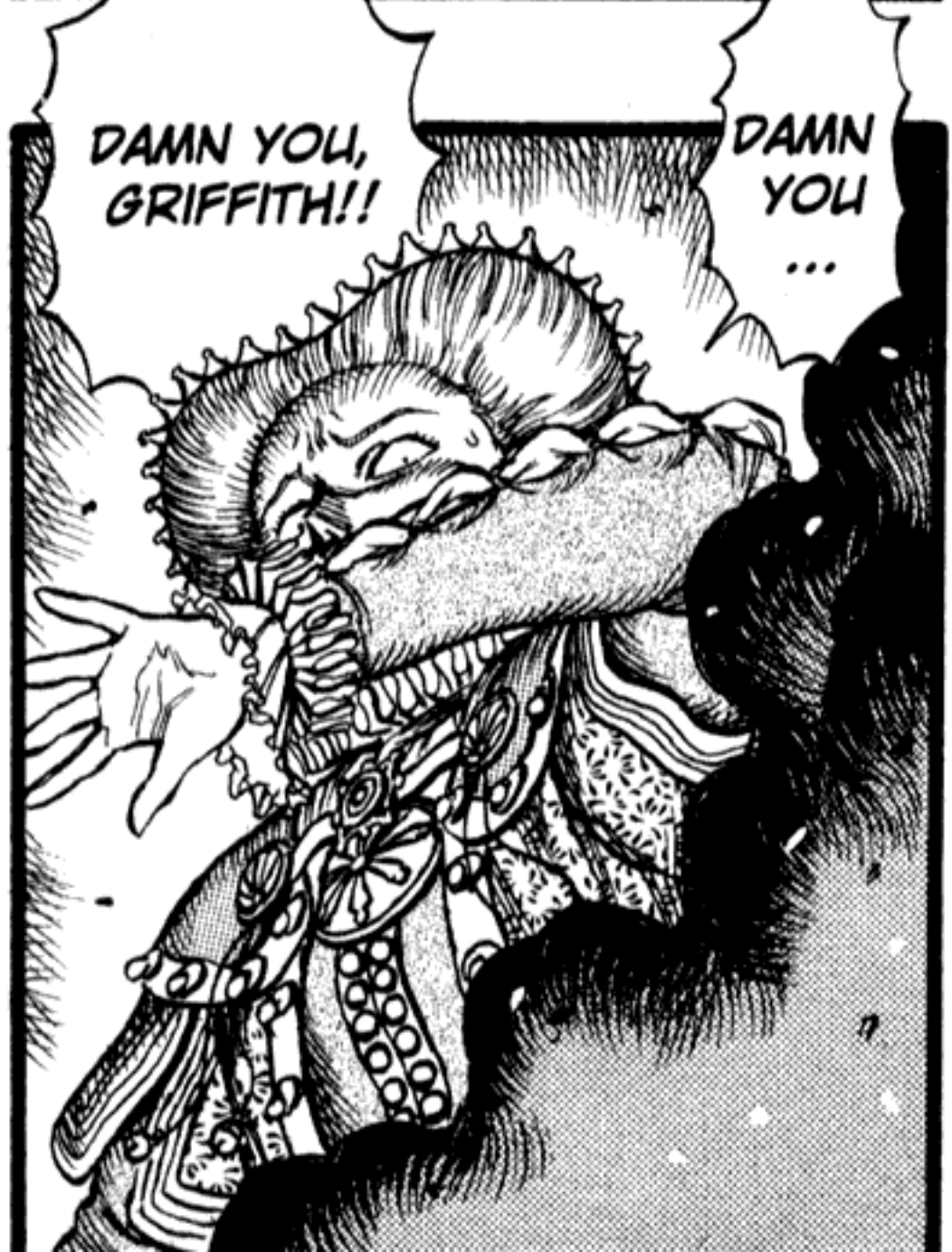
NATURALLY, IF
I HAD TAKEN A
FATAL DOSE I
REALLY WOULD
HAVE DIED...

THANKS
TO IT, I
WAS ABLE
TO DEAL WITH
ALL OF YOU
AT ONCE.



IT
WAS NOT
POISON
THAT
PASSED
MY LIPS.

IT WAS A
NOSTRUM,
A HYOSCYAMUS-
BASED MIXTURE
THAT PUT ME IN
A TEMPORARY
STASIS CLOSE
TO DEATH.





I
WON'T
ALLOW
IT...

I
WON'T
ACKNOW-
LEDGE
IT!!!



ゴ"オオオオオ

A MERE
COMMONER LIKE
YOU IS GOING
TO BURN ME,
THE QUEEN
OF MIDLAND,
TO DEATH?!

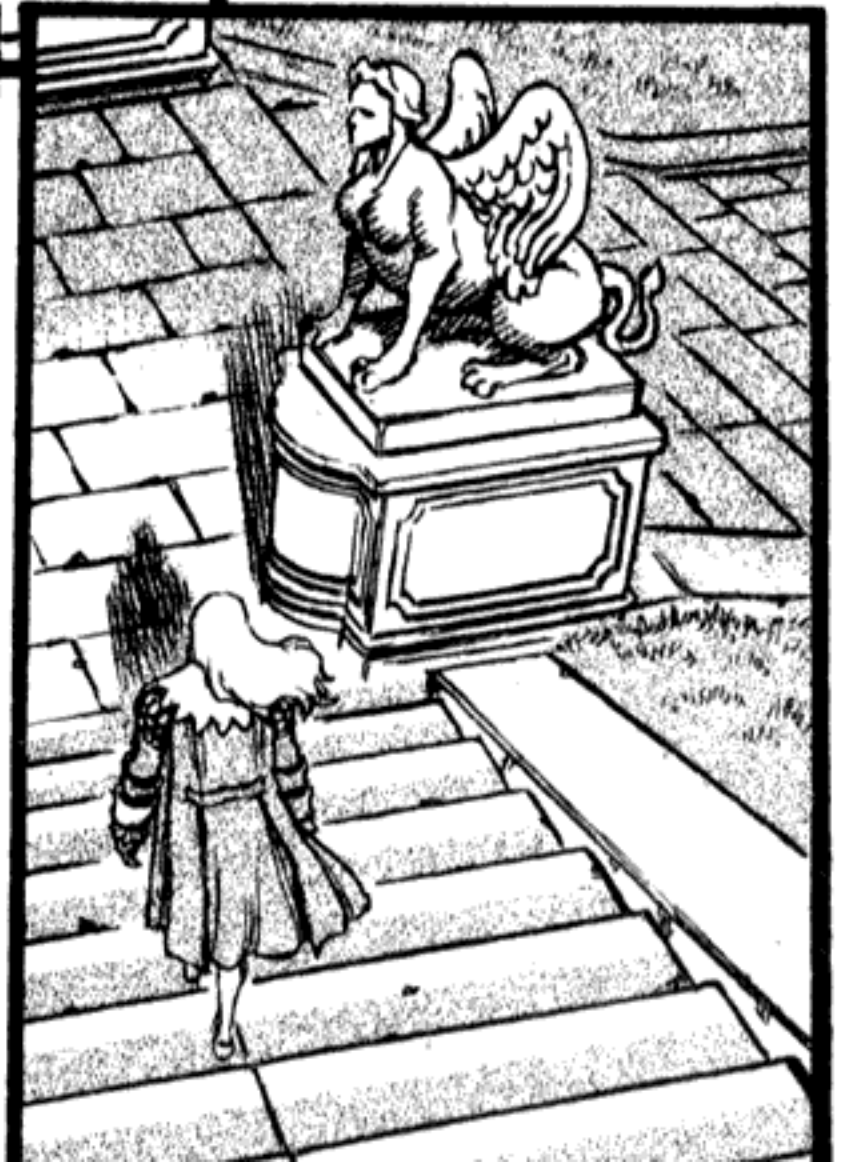
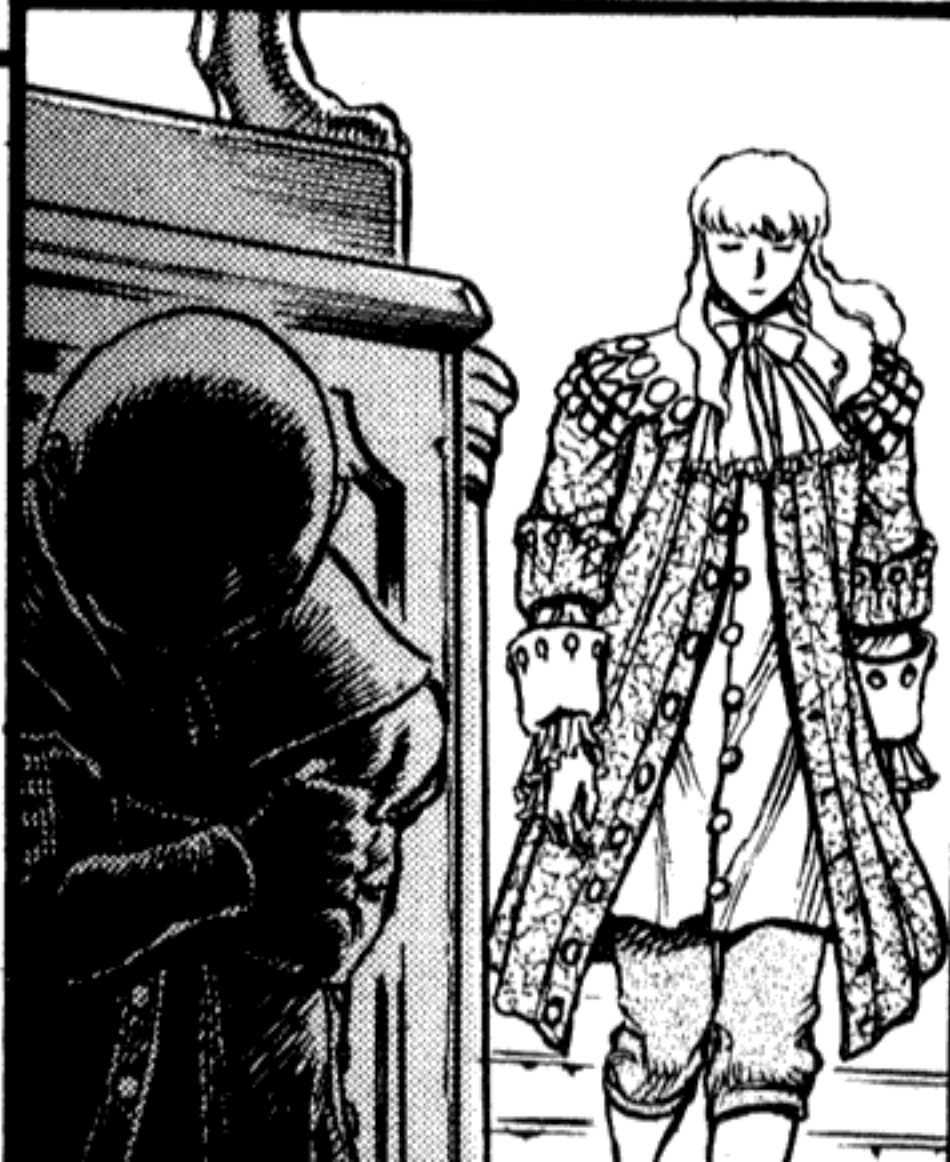
SO, YOU
MEAN TO
KILL ME?!
JUST LIKE
YOU KILLED
JULIUS!!

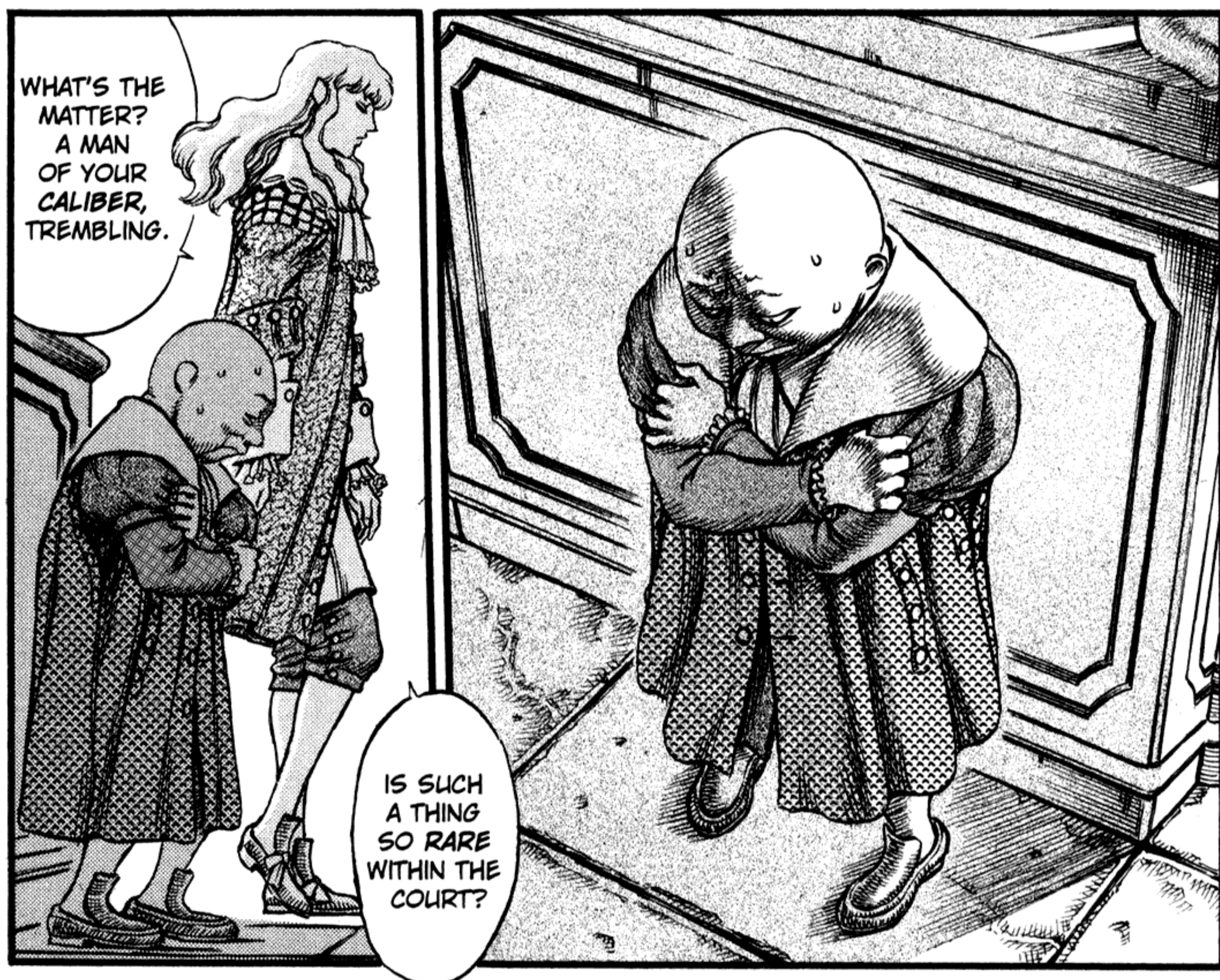


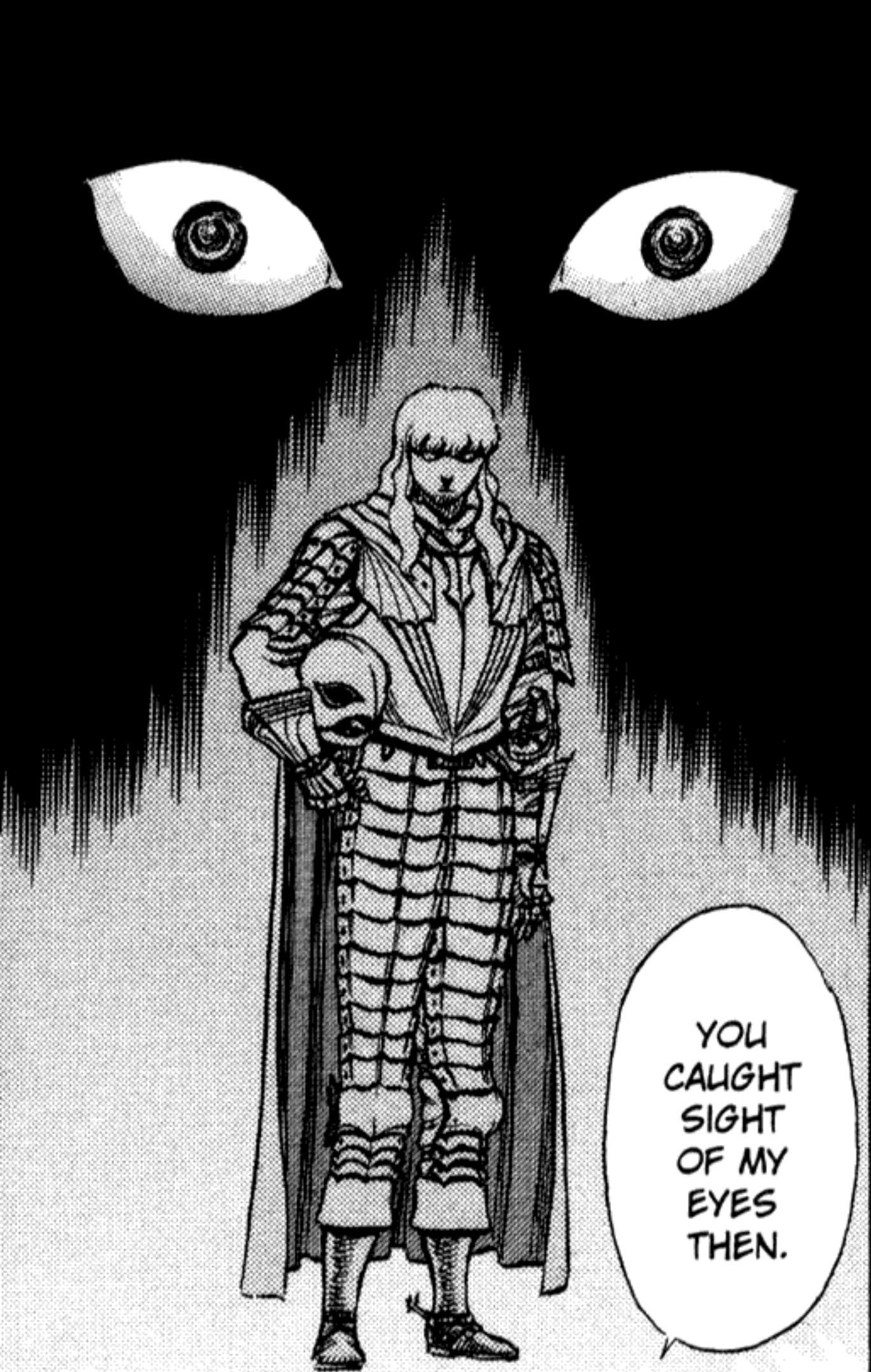
THOSE WHO
DIE ON THE
BATTLEFIELD ARE
NOT ROYALTY,
NOBILITY, OR
COMMONERS.

THEY
ARE THE
DEFEATED
WHO DIE.





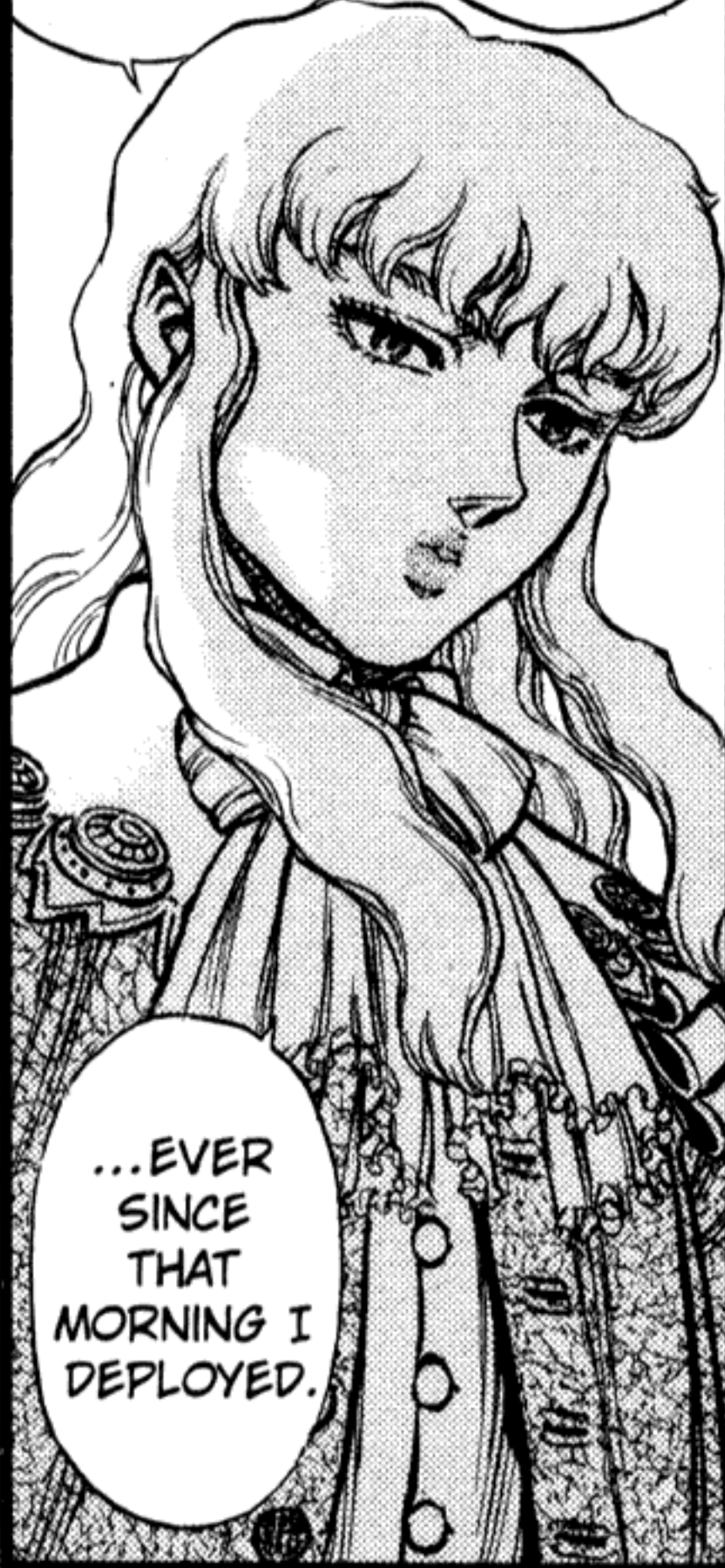




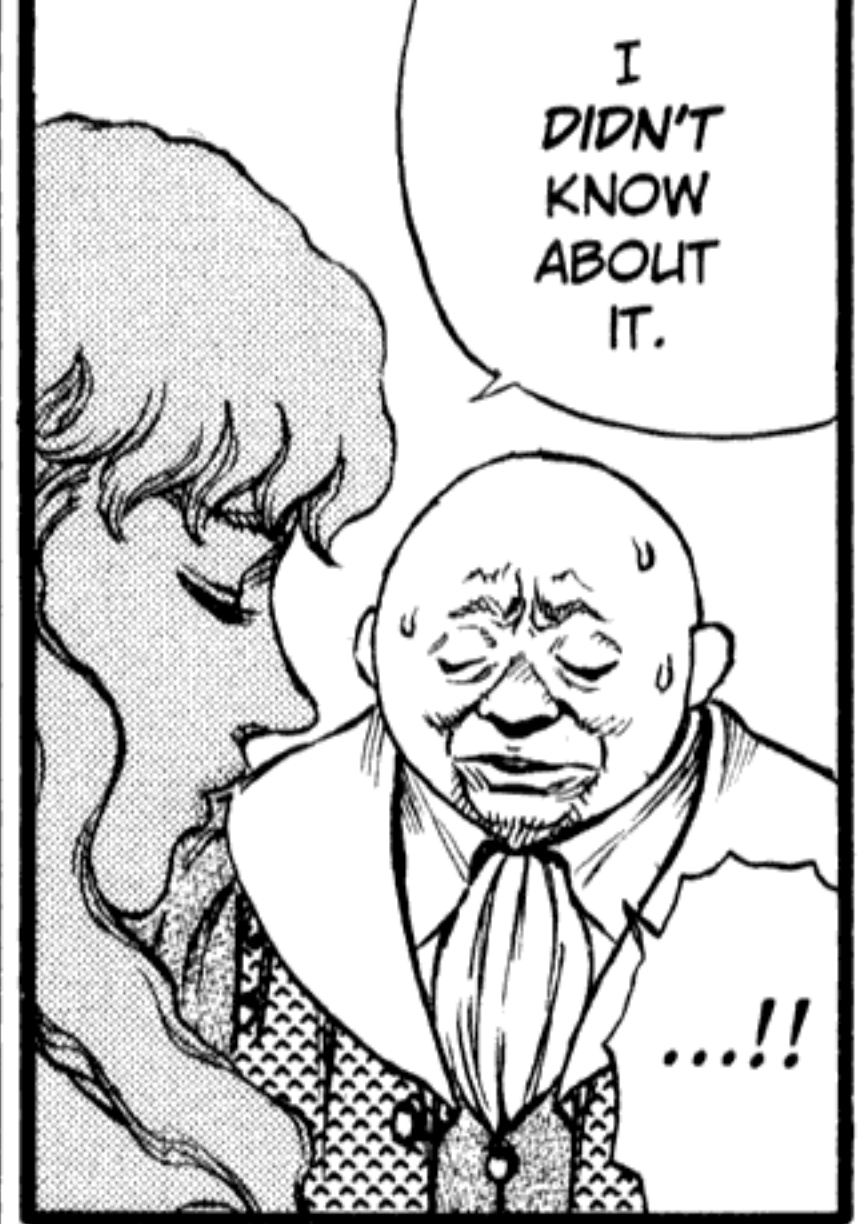
YOU
CAUGHT
SIGHT
OF MY
EYES
THEN.

I HAD
PREDICTED
YOU WOULD
BECOME MY
ENEMY...

BUT
YOU ARE
DIFFERENT,
MINISTER
FOSS.



...EVER
SINCE
THAT
MORNING I
DEPLOYED.



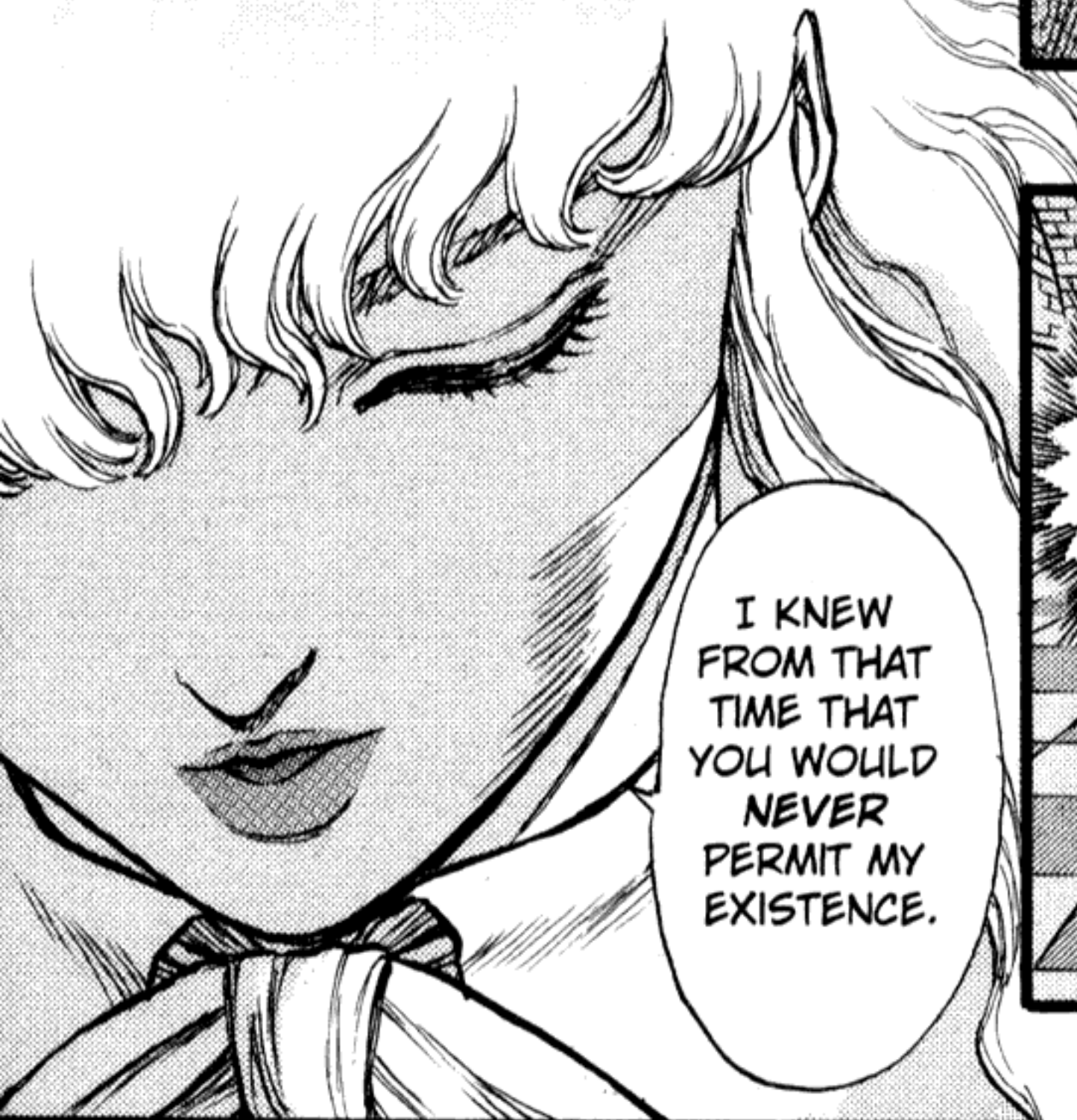
I
DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
IT.

...!!

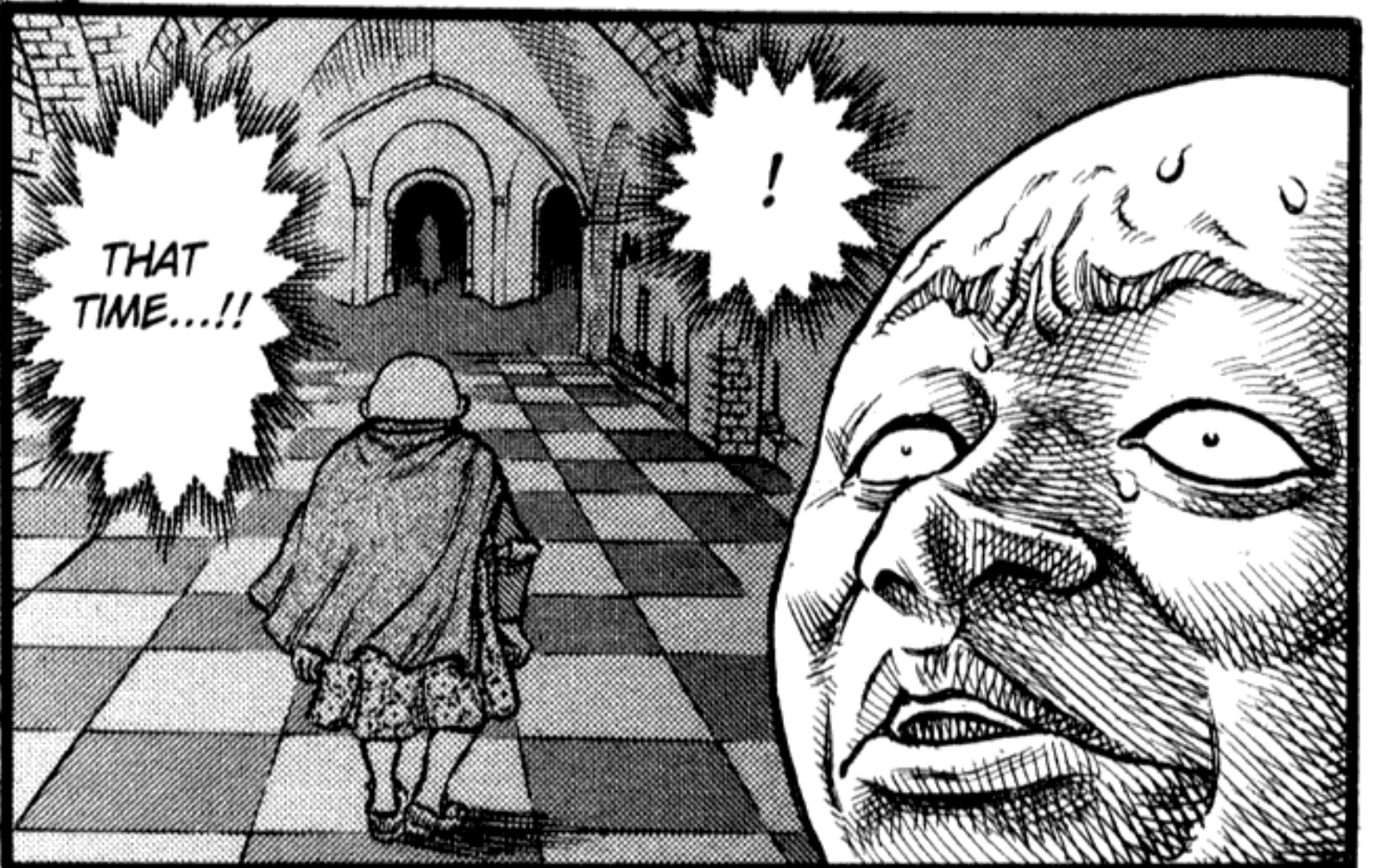


WHY
ME?!

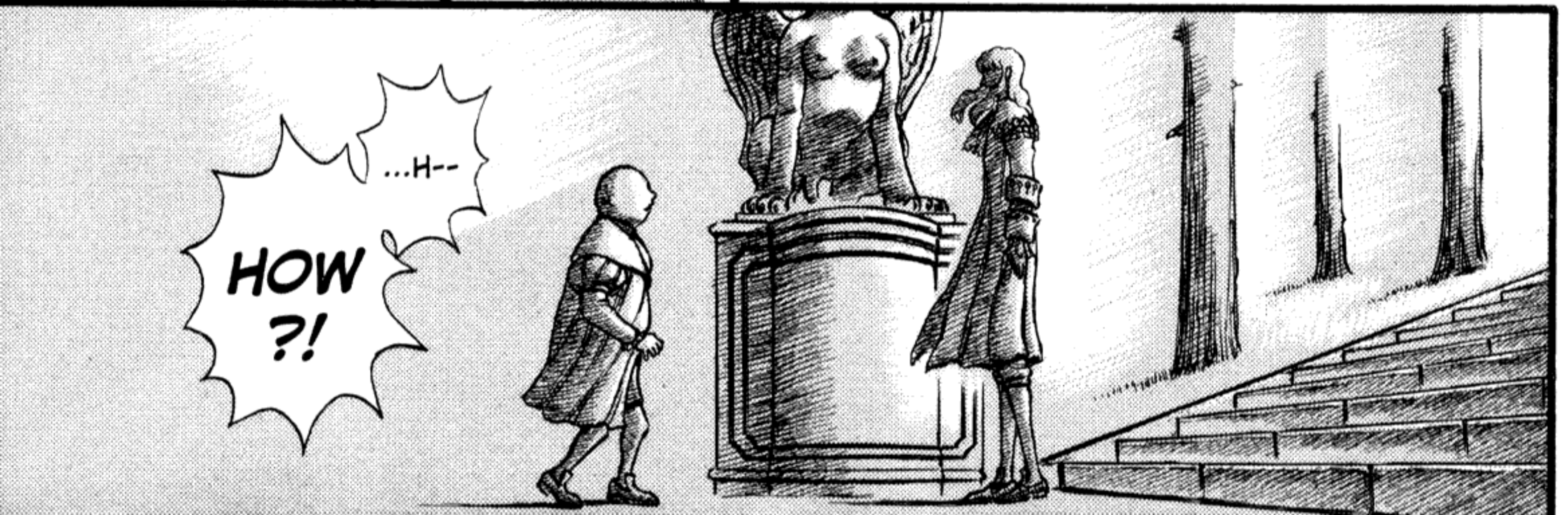
TH-
THEN...



I KNEW
FROM THAT
TIME THAT
YOU WOULD
NEVER
PERMIT MY
EXISTENCE.



THAT
TIME...!!



HOW
?!

...H--



...BETRAYED
YOUR
FEAR.

AT THAT
INSTANT...

...YOUR
EYES...

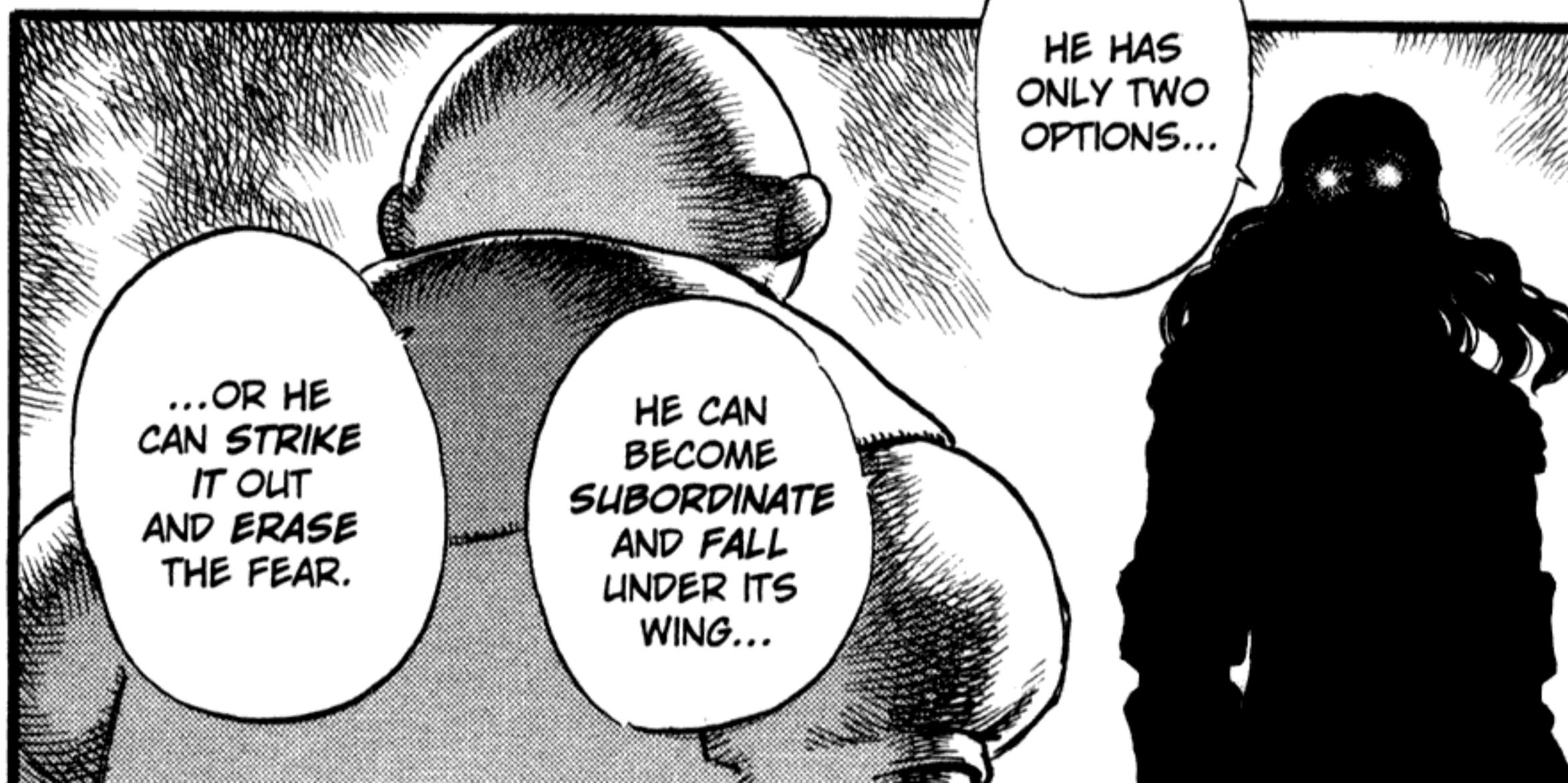


HE HAS
ONLY TWO
OPTIONS...

...OR HE
CAN STRIKE
IT OUT
AND ERASE
THE FEAR.

HE CAN
BECOME
SUBORDINATE
AND FALL
UNDER ITS
WING...

WHEN A MAN
IS FACED WITH
SOMETHING HE
TRULY FEARS,
HE CANNOT
IGNORE IT.





IT'S
HIM....!!



BUT SOMEONE
AS SHREWD AS
YOU WAS CERTAIN
TO ROUND THEM
UP AND GO ABOUT
TRYING TO
REMOVE ME.

I'VE LONG
KNOWN THAT THERE
WERE MORE THAN A
FEW AMONGST THE
CONSERVATIVES IN
COURT WHO DID NOT
THINK WELL OF ME,
BUT I WASN'T ABLE
TO DETERMINE
SPECIFICALLY WHO
THEY WERE.



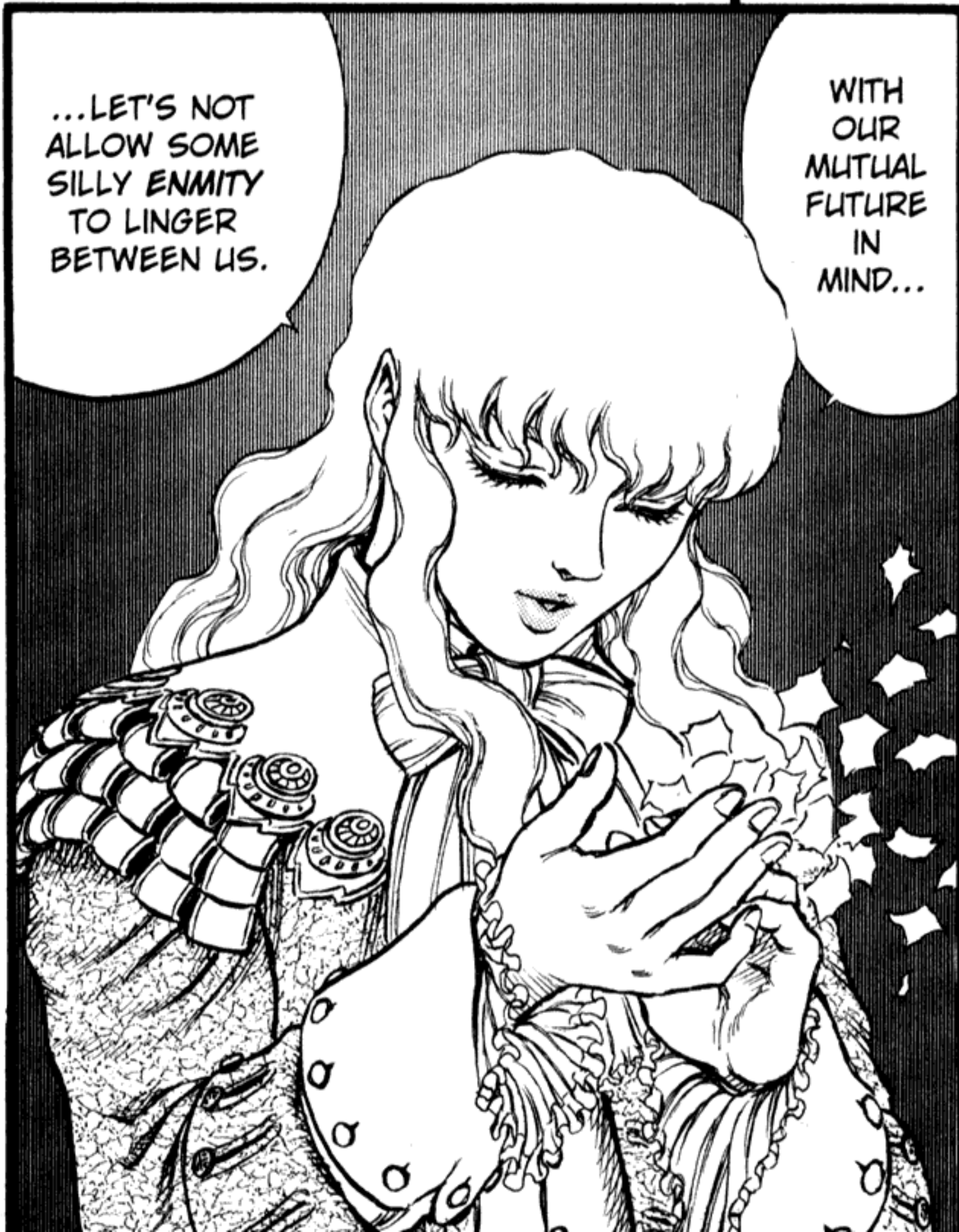
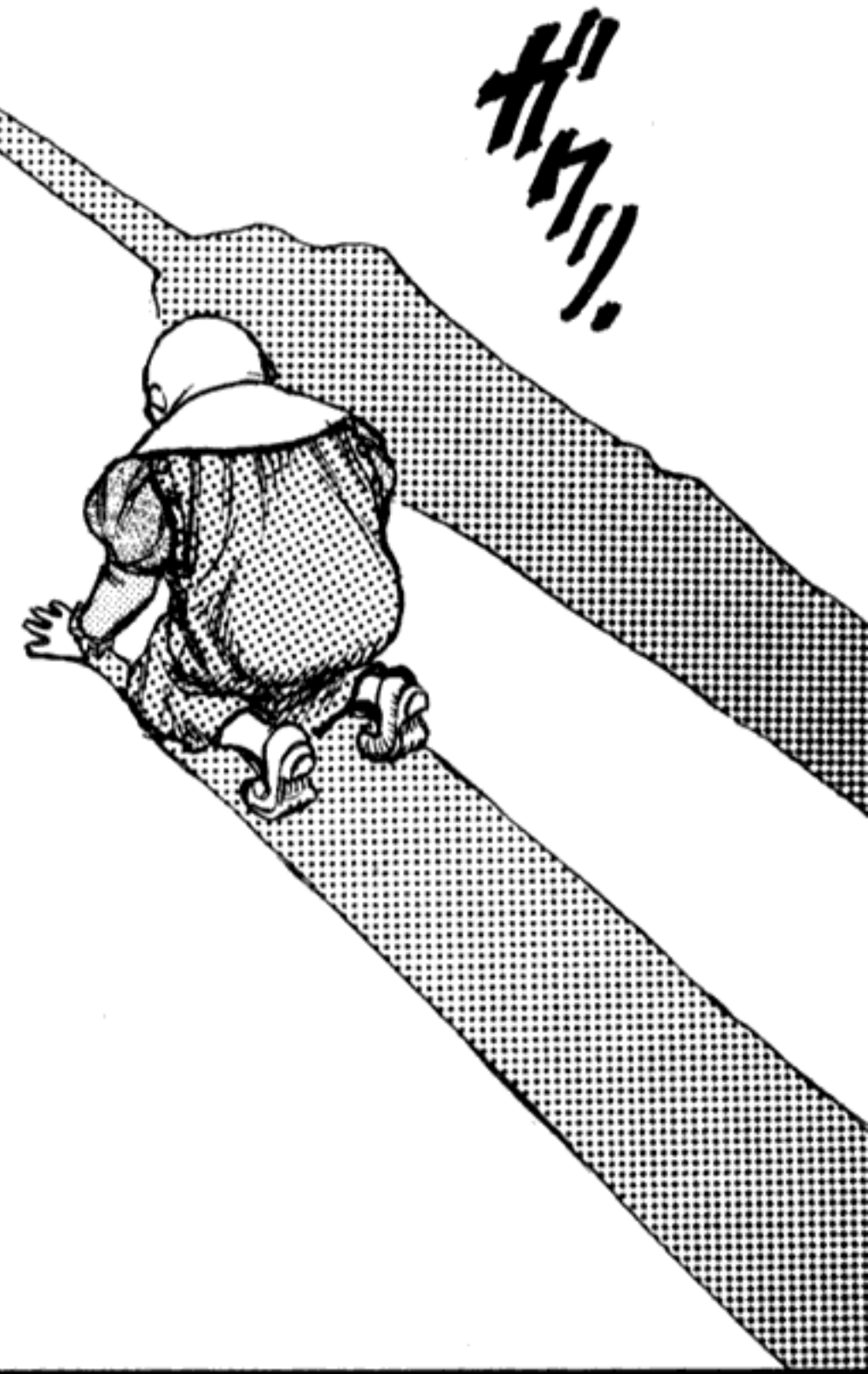
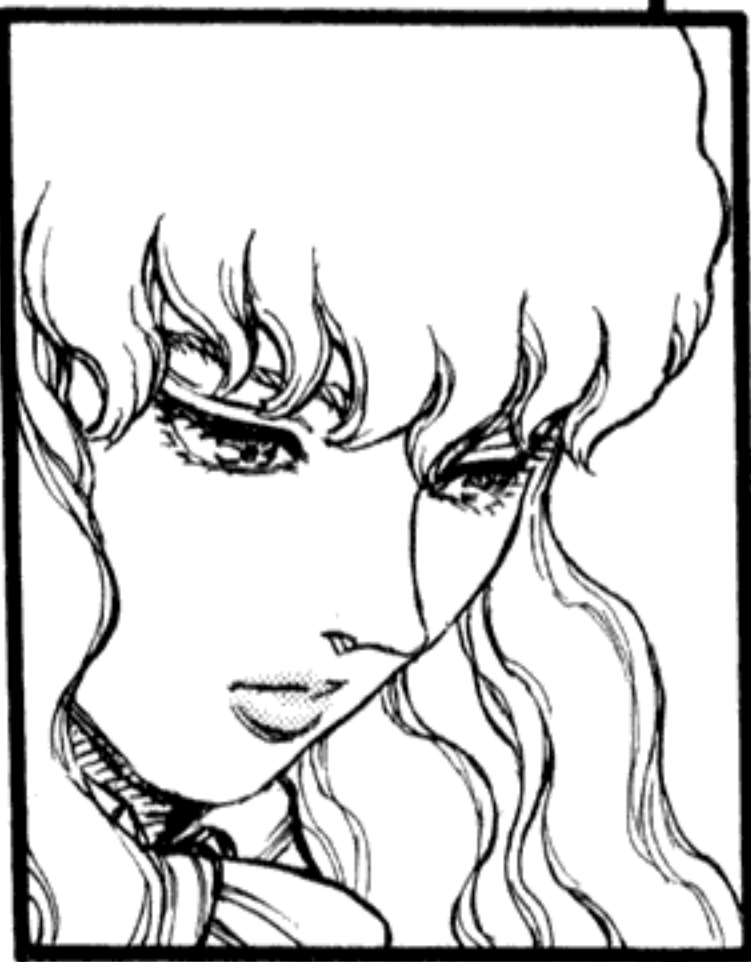
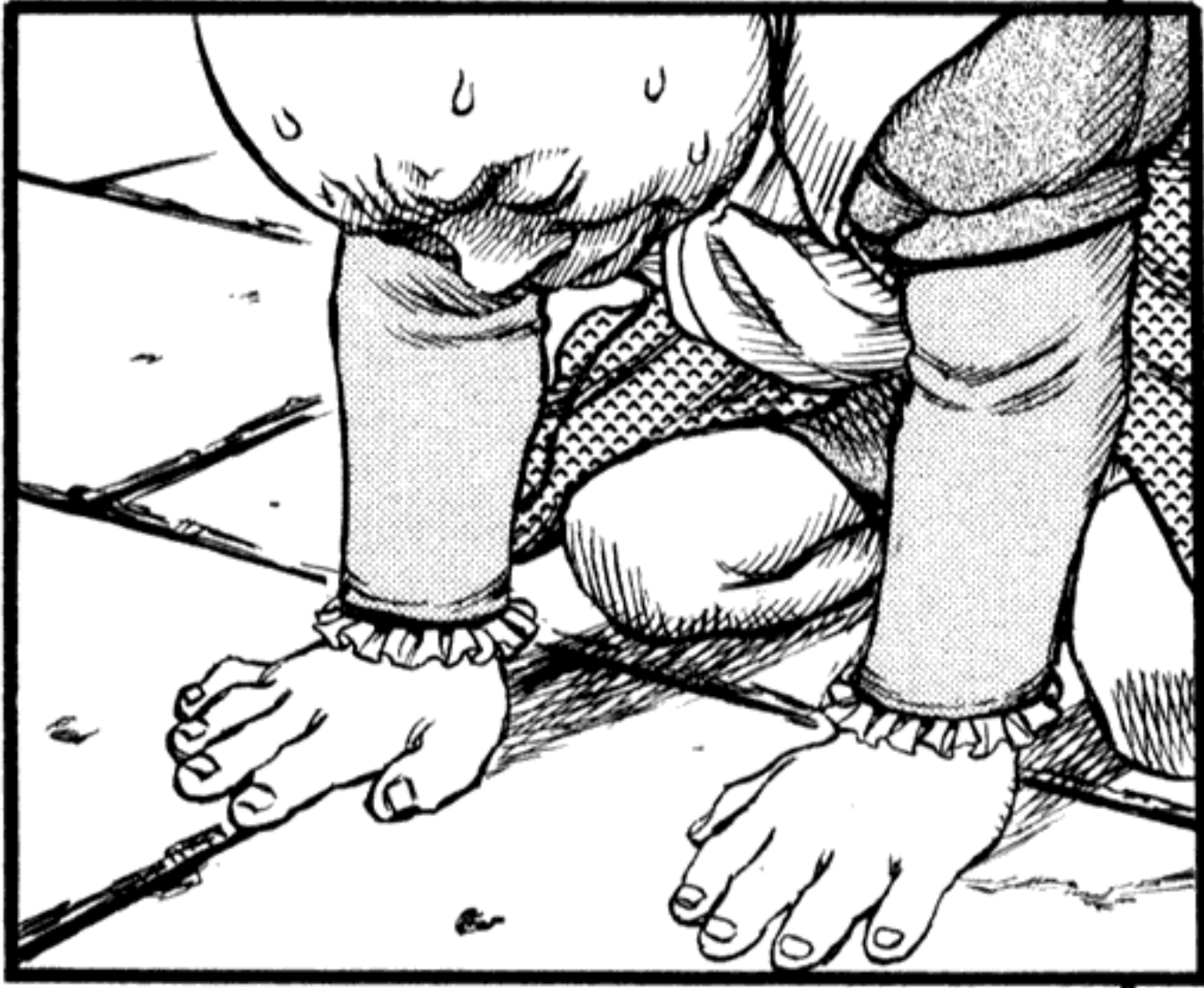
THOUGH
STILL...

THAT
THE QUEEN
HERSELF
WOULD PLAY
A PART WAS
UNFORESEEN.

IT'S
THAT THIS
MAN IS
DREADFUL!!!

...YES, THE
REASON I CAN'T
STOP TREMBLING
ISN'T BECAUSE I
BETRAYED MY
COMRADES...NOR
WAS IT THAT
I WAS AN
ACCOMPLICE TO
THE QUEEN'S
MURDER!!

H-HOW COULD
THIS BE?! JUST
FROM OUR EYES
MEETING FOR
THAT INSTANT?!
HAVE I BEEN
DANCING TO
THIS MAN'S
TUNE EVER
SINCE THEN?!

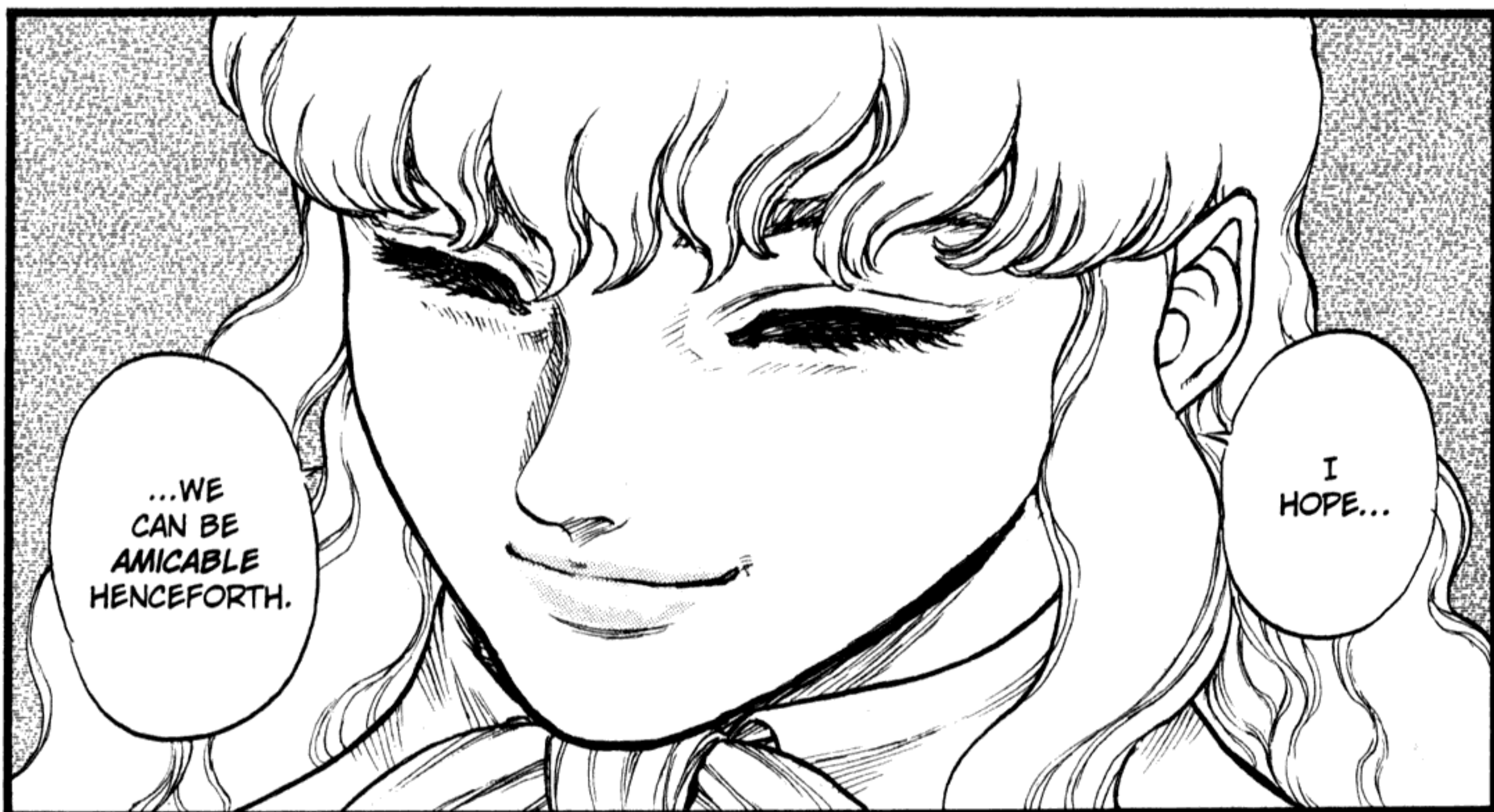


...LET'S NOT
ALLOW SOME
SILLY ENMITY
TO LINGER
BETWEEN US.

WITH
OUR
MUTUAL
FUTURE
IN
MIND...

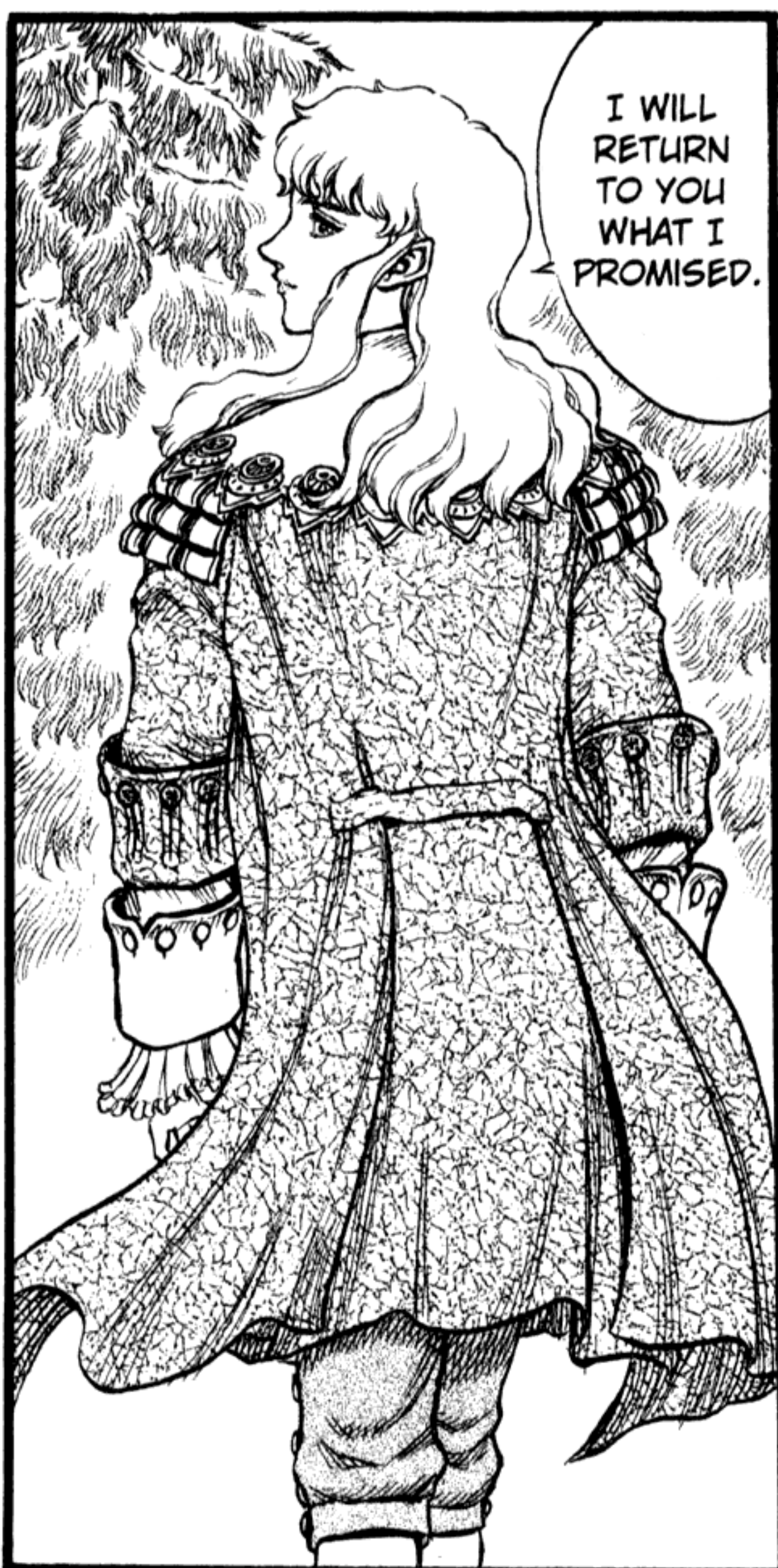


THERE'S NO
LONGER ANY
NEED FOR
THIS BLOOD
OATH I
CONFISCATED.



...WE
CAN BE
AMICABLE
HENCEFORTH.

I
HOPE...



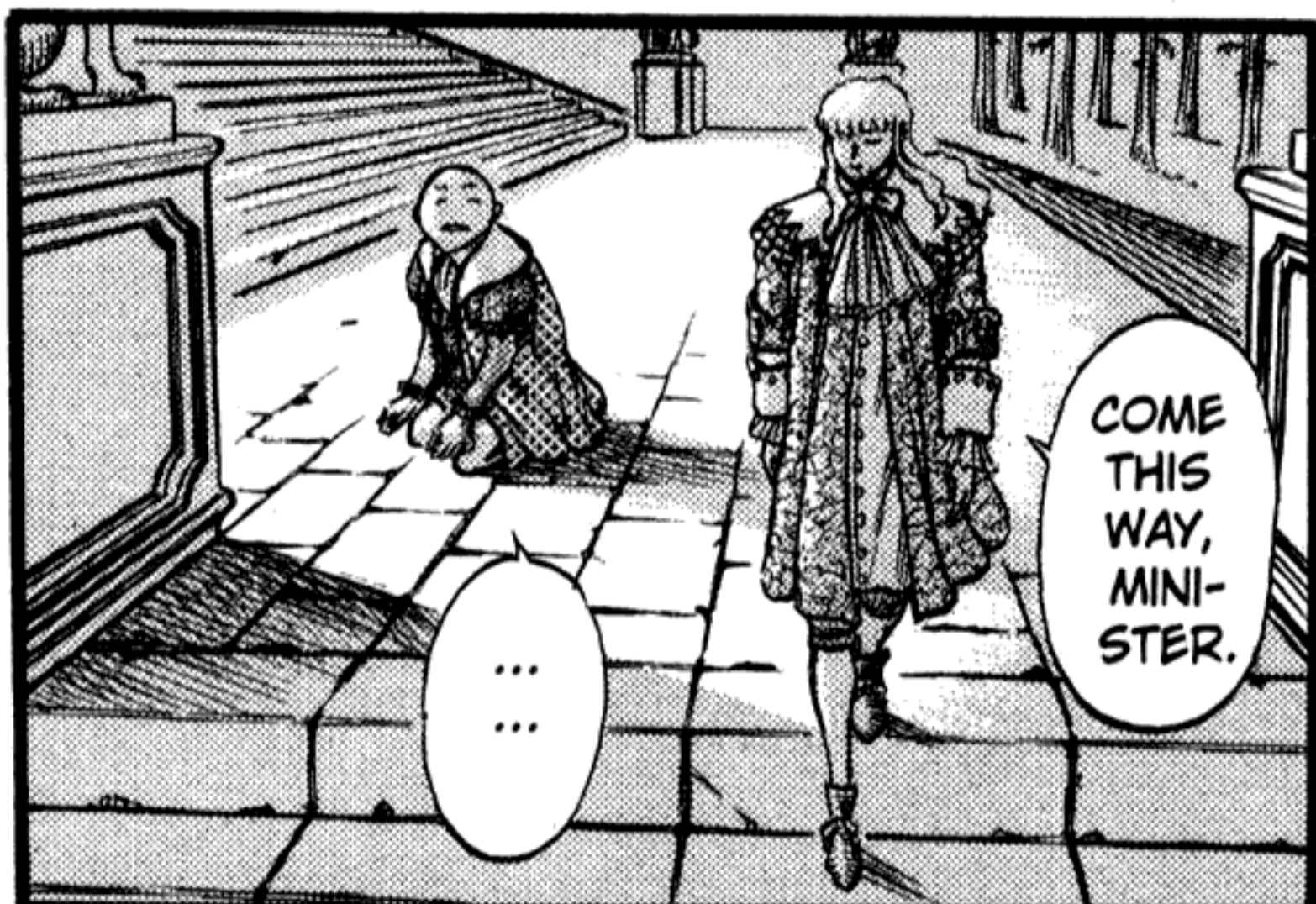
I WILL
RETURN
TO YOU
WHAT I
PROMISED.



...CAN HE
SMILE
INNOCENTLY
THAT
WAY?!

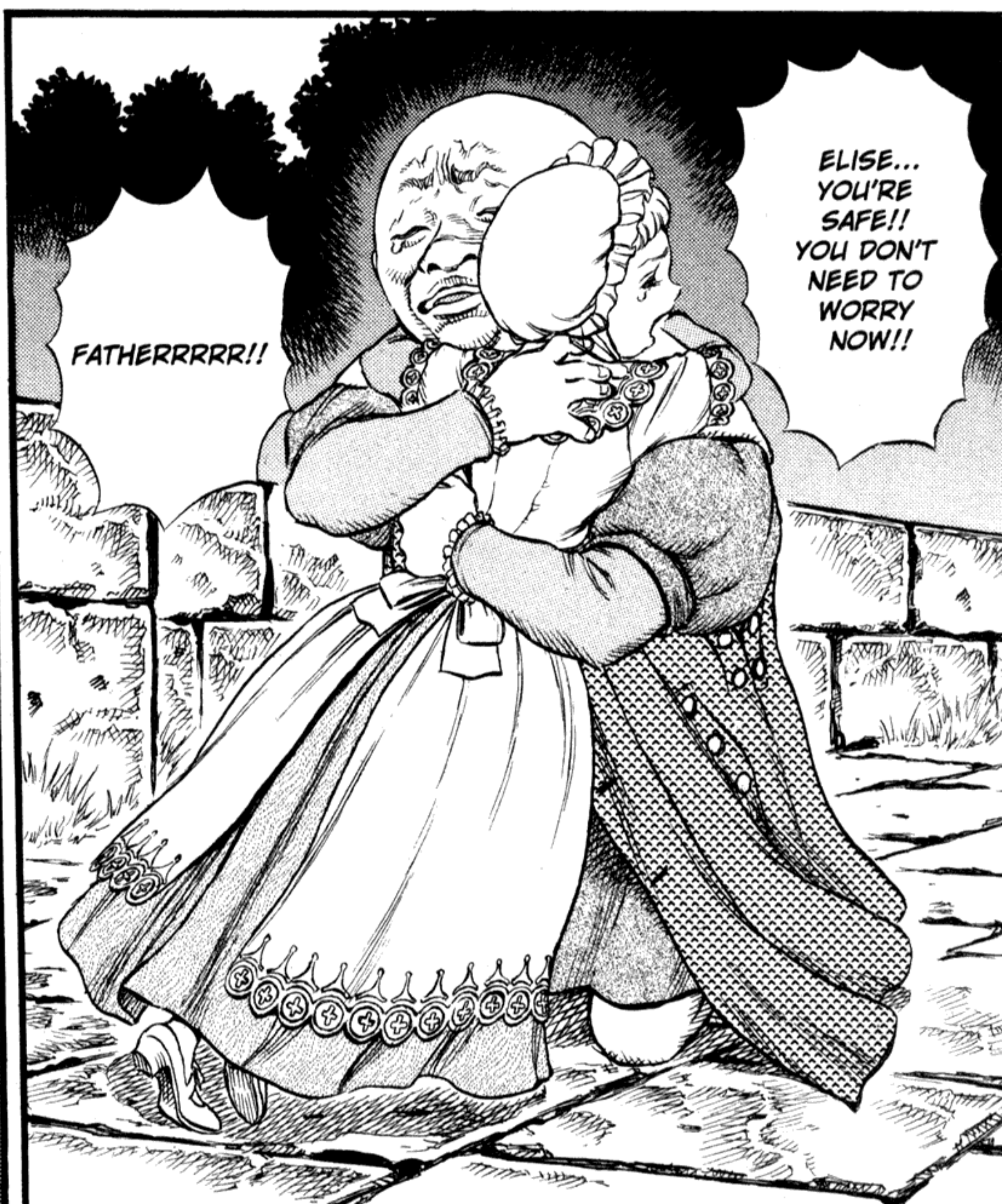
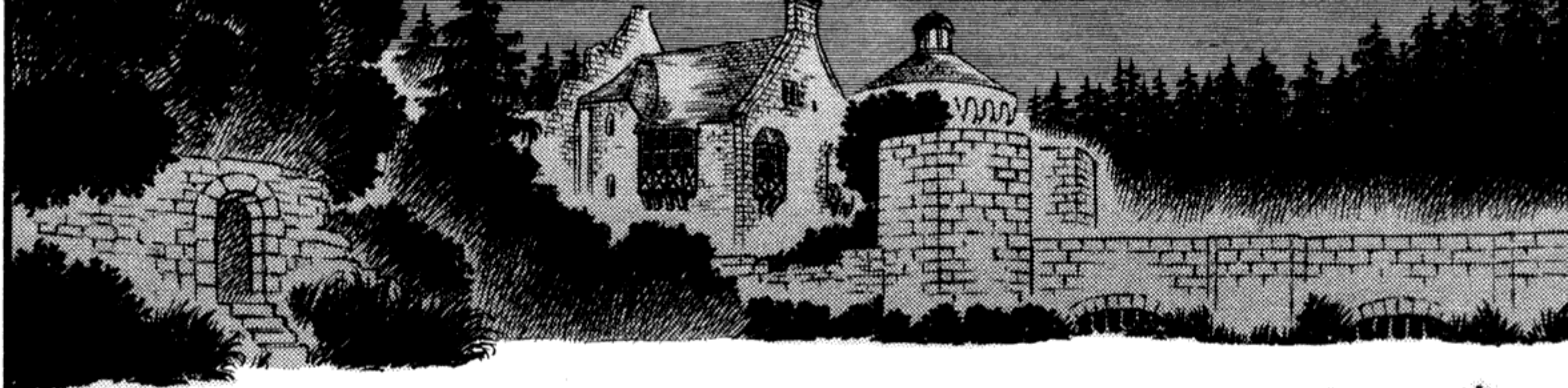


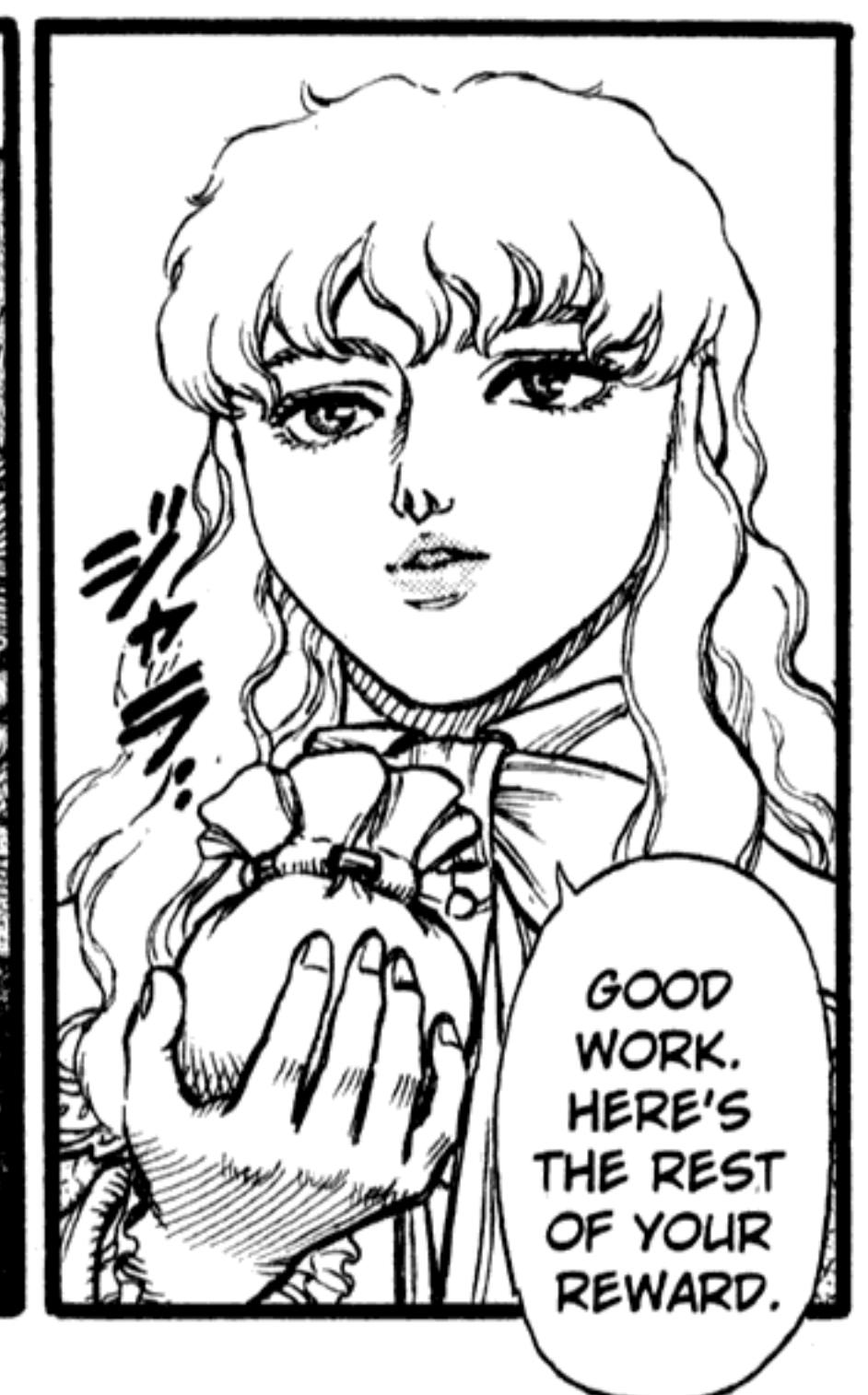
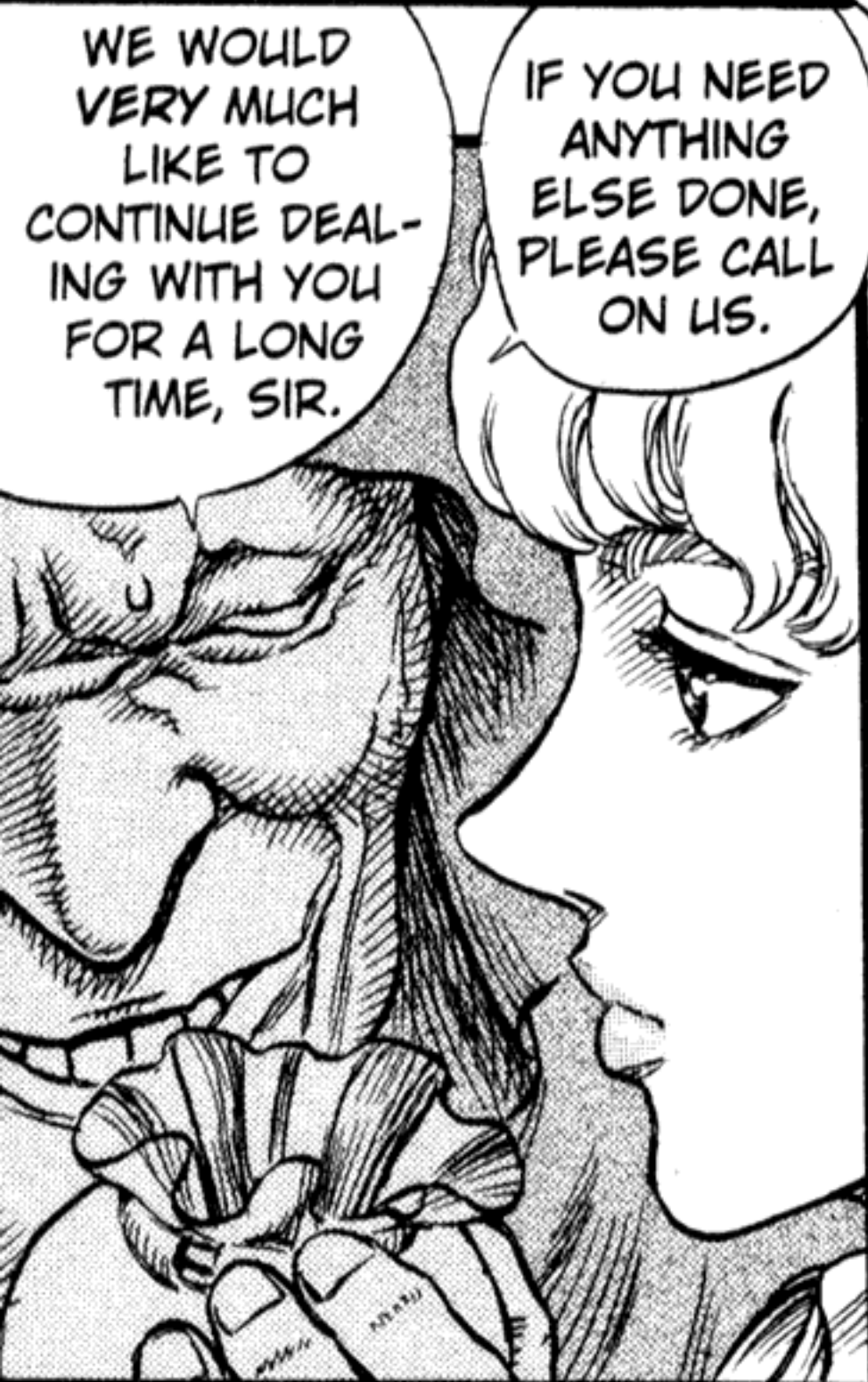
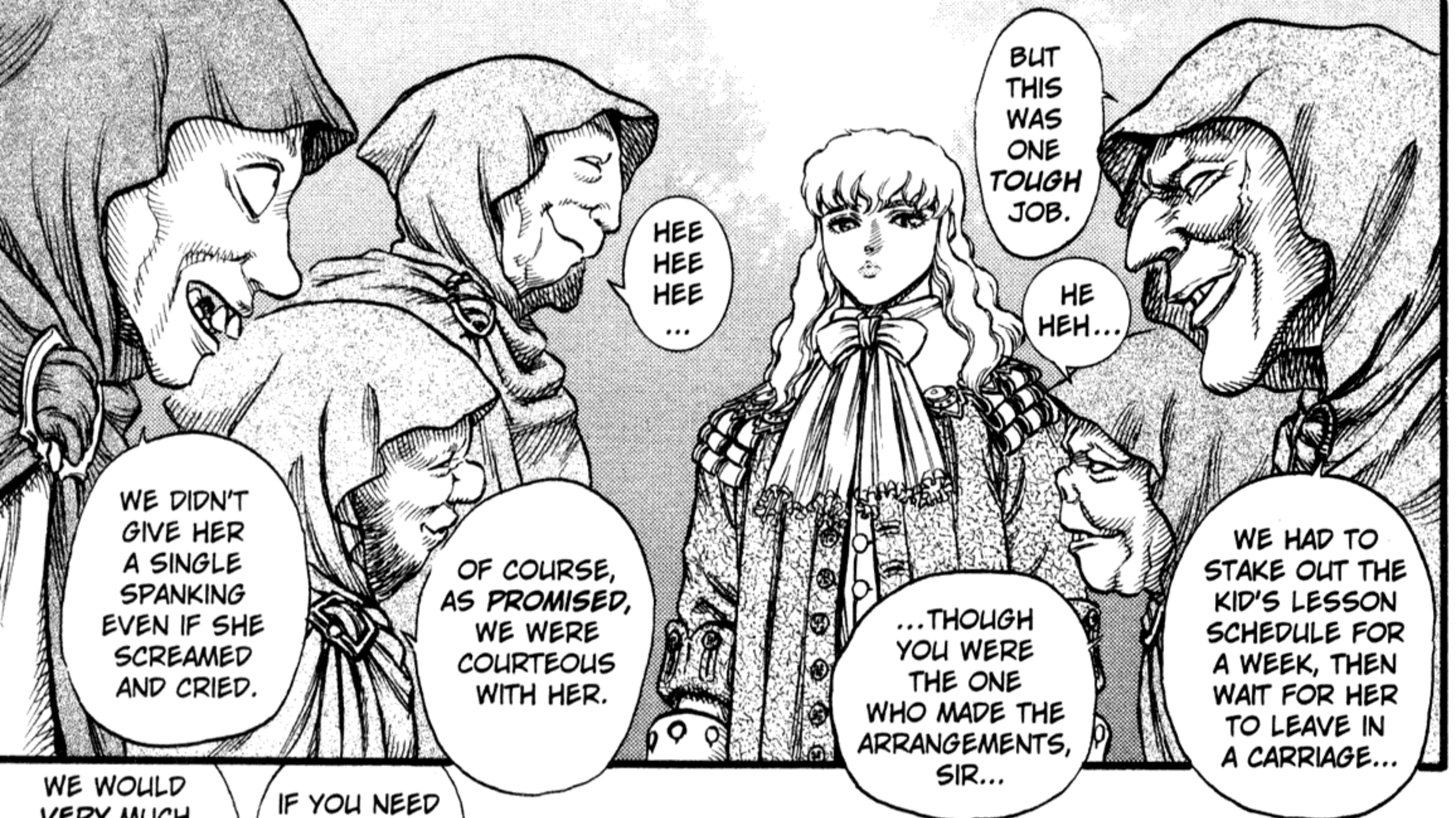
HOW?! HOW, WHEN
HE'S DONE SO MUCH...

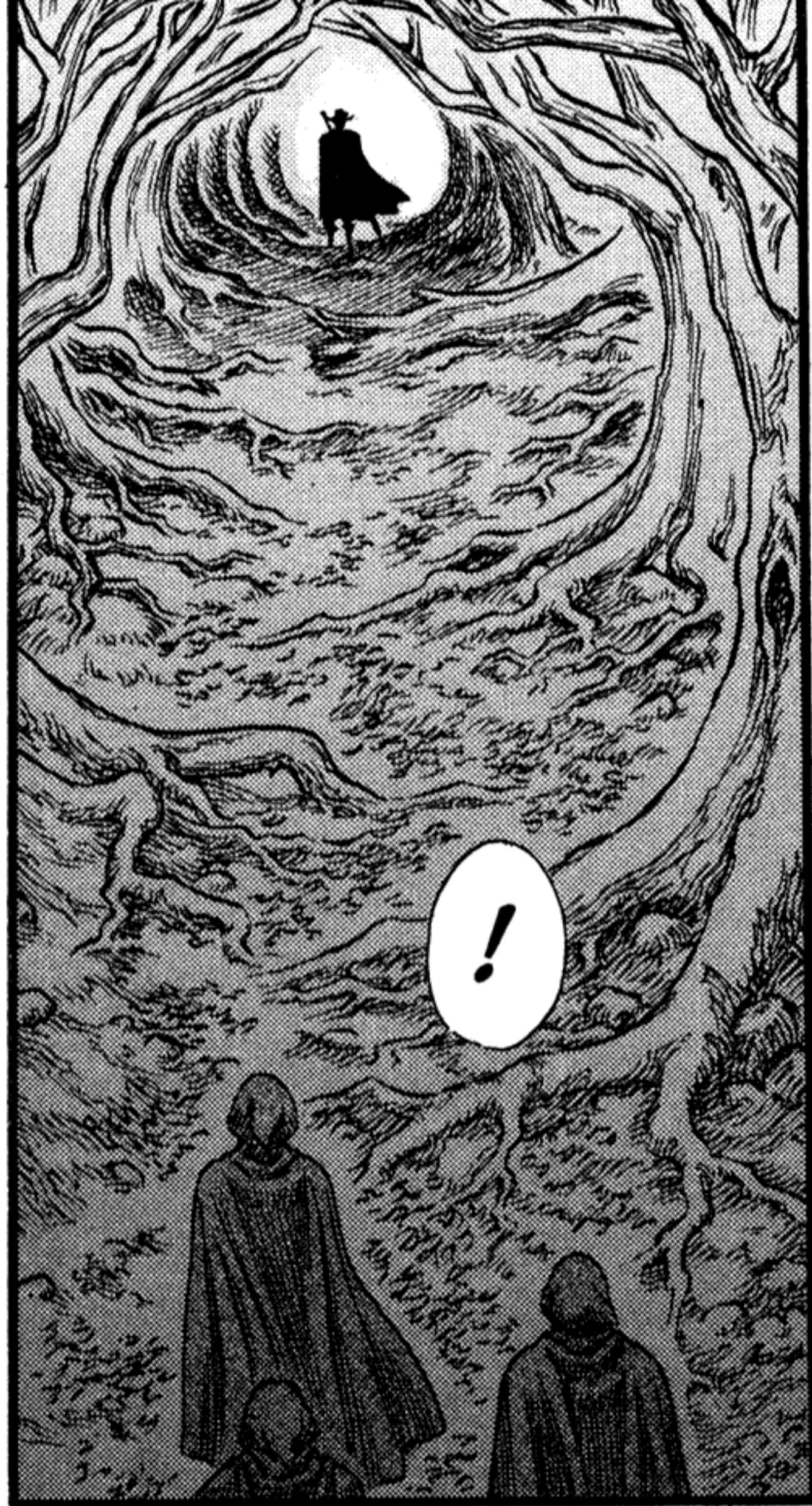


COME
THIS
WAY,
MINI-
STER.

...



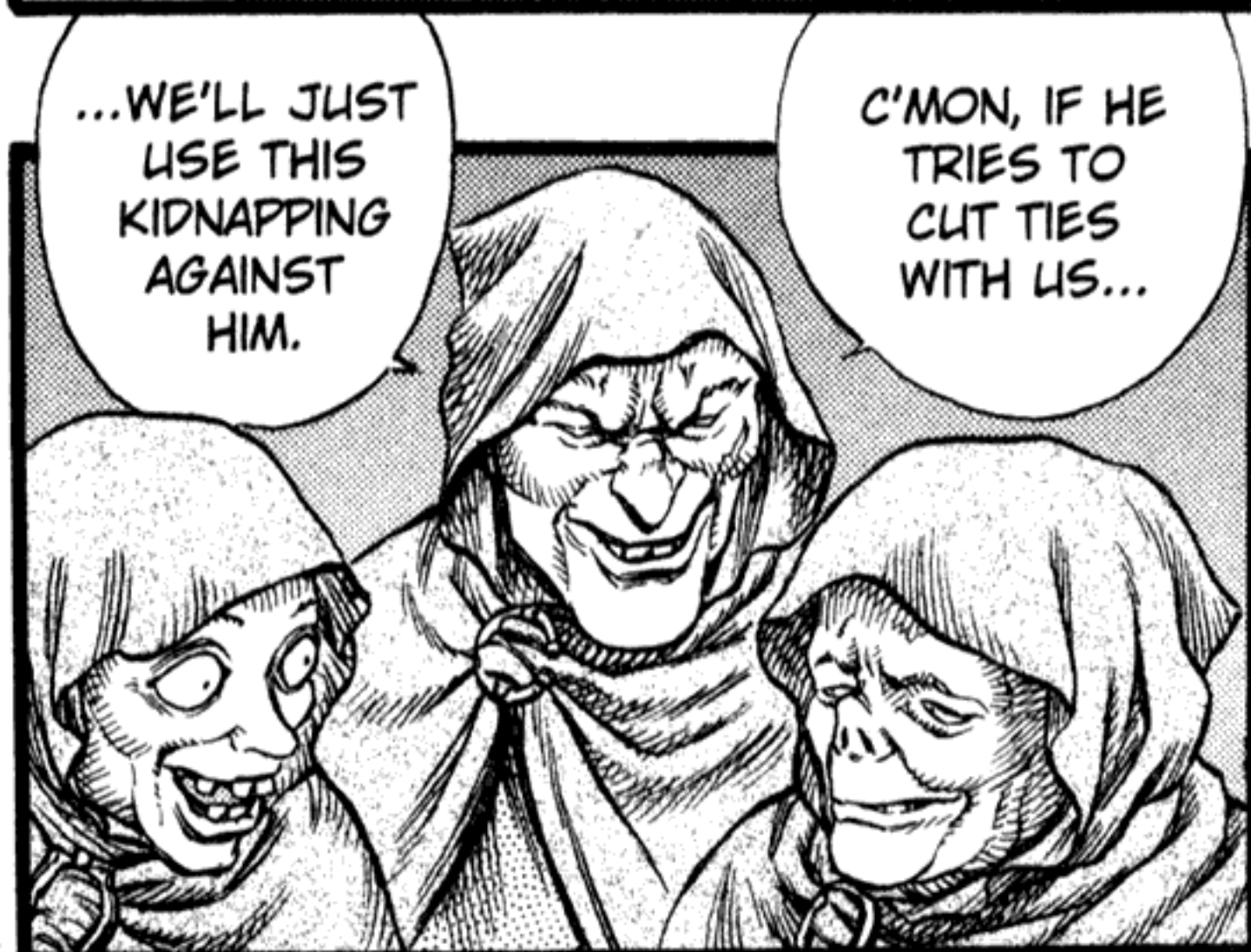




HEHEH...
THAT
WAS
SIMPLE.

NOT TO
MENTION
PROFIT-
ABLE.

HOPE
HE
HIRES
US
AGAIN.



...WE'LL JUST
USE THIS
KIDNAPPING
AGAINST
HIM.

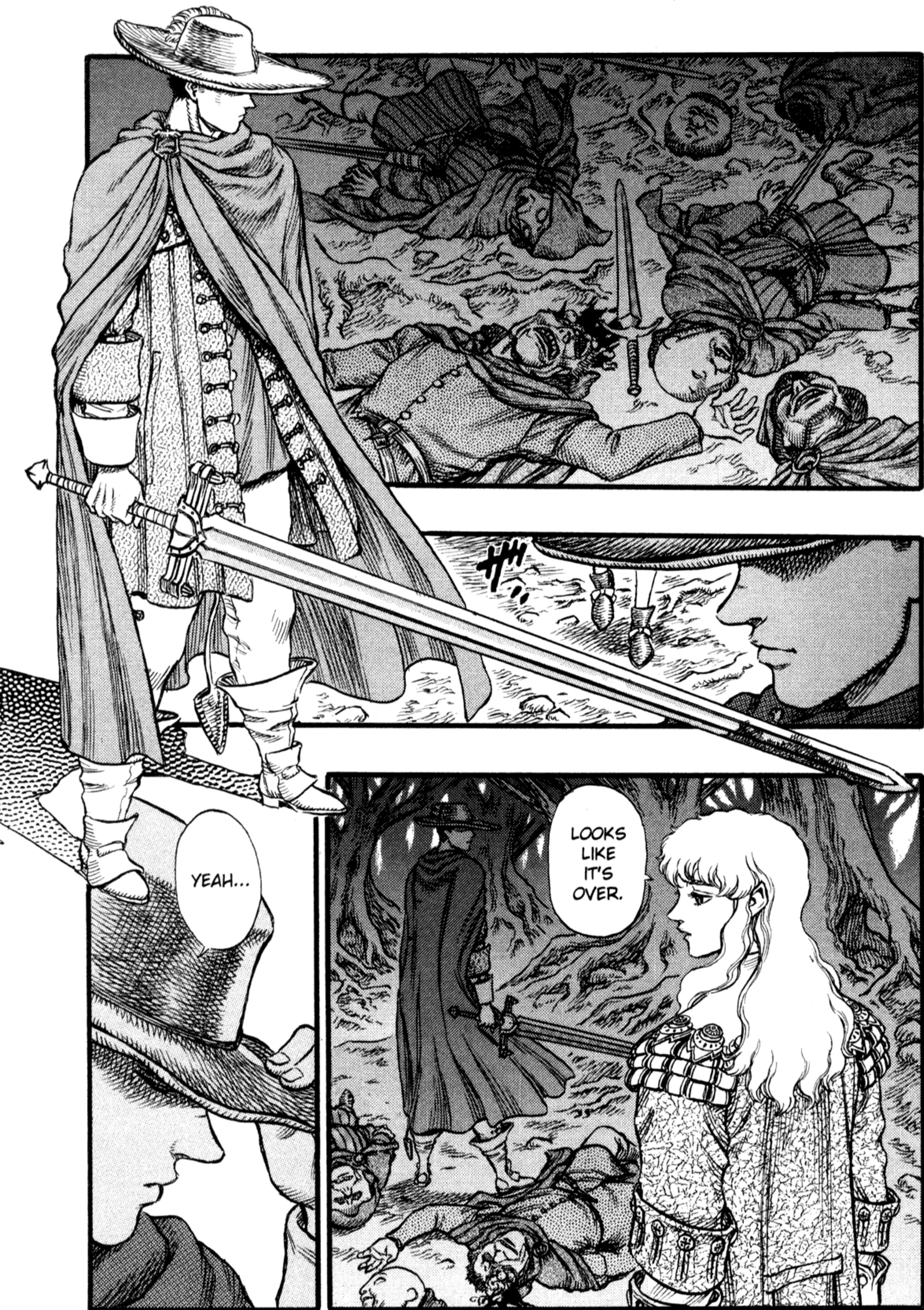
C'MON, IF HE
TRIES TO
CUT TIES
WITH US...

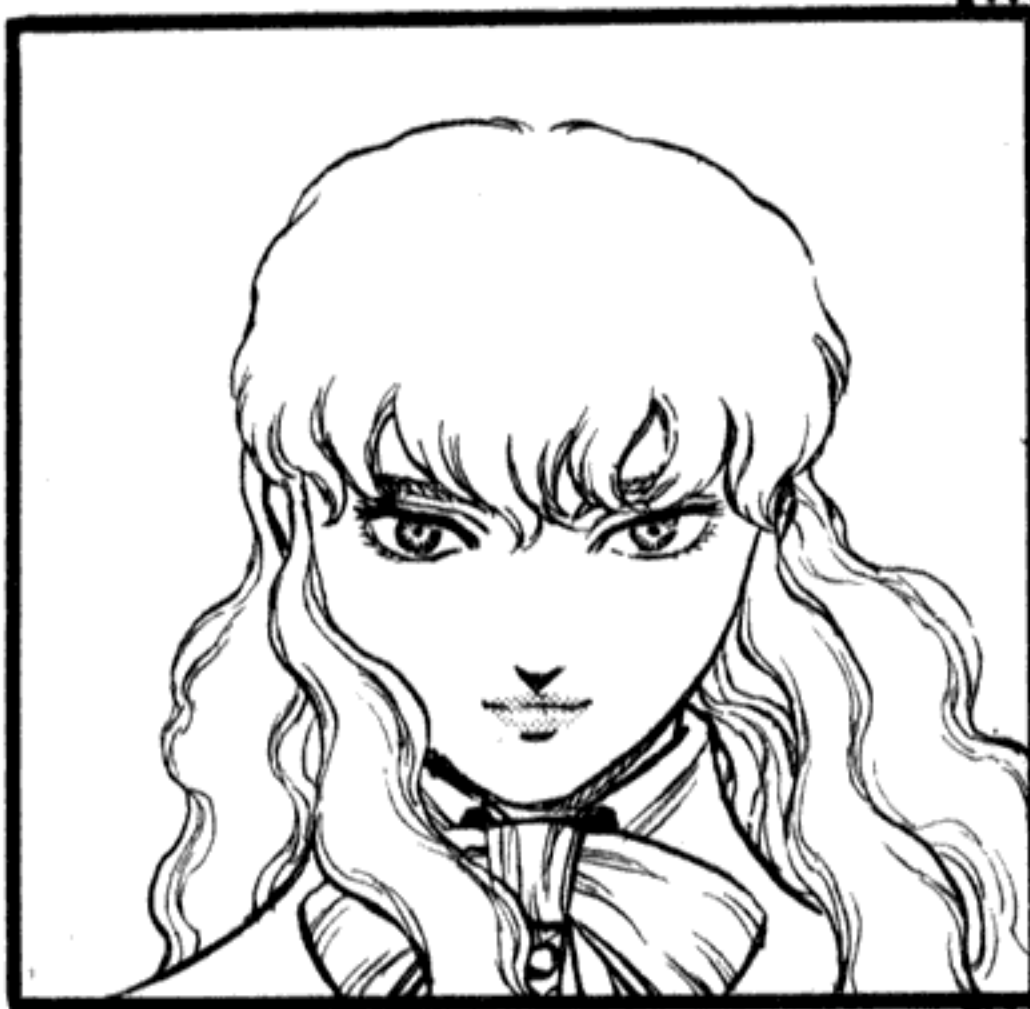


WHO THE
HELL ARE
YOU?!

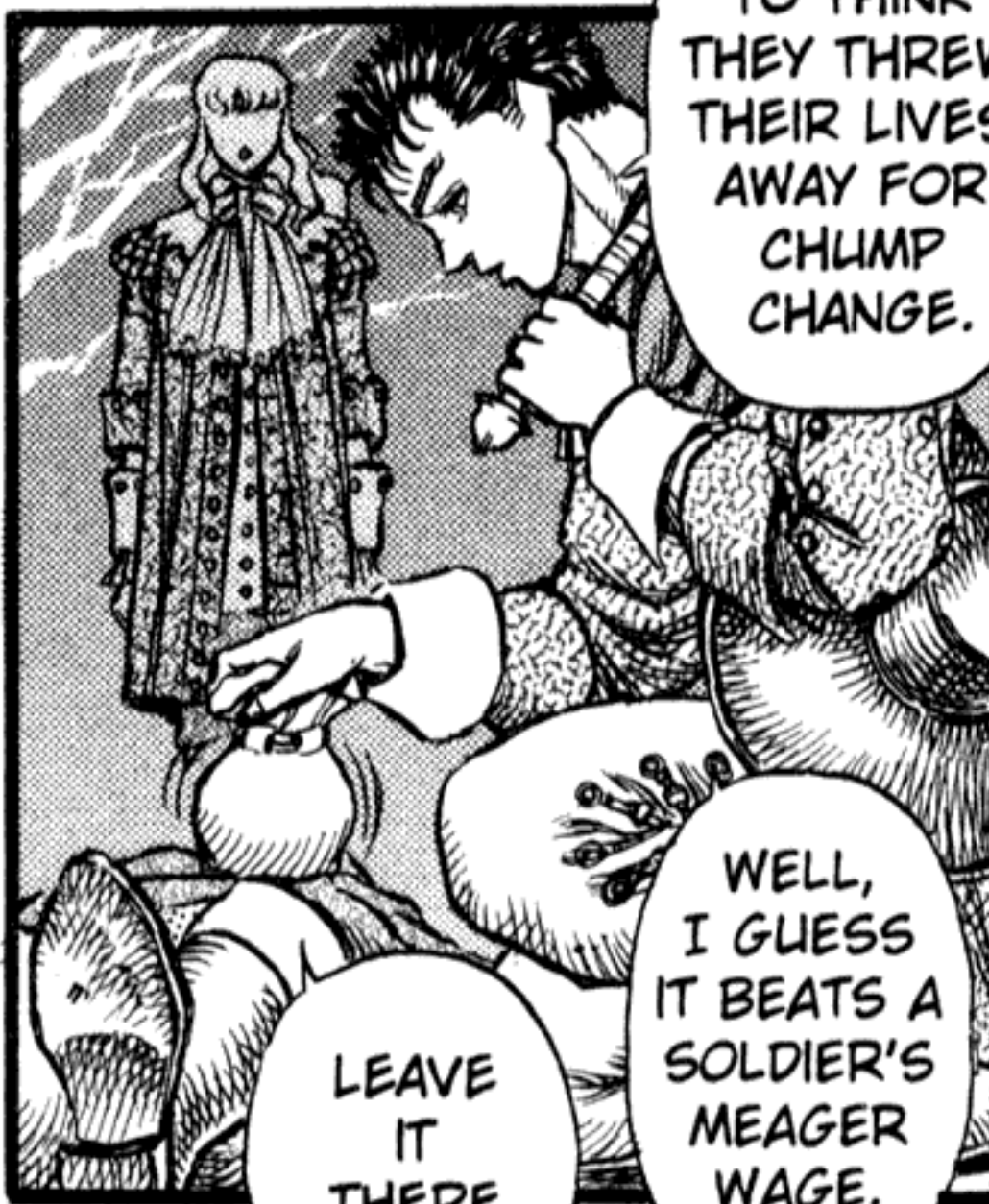
WH-
WHO'S
THERE?!







THAT
TAKES
CARE OF
IT. ALL
OF IT.



TO THINK
THEY THREW
THEIR LIVES
AWAY FOR
CHUMP
CHANGE.

LEAVE
IT
THERE.

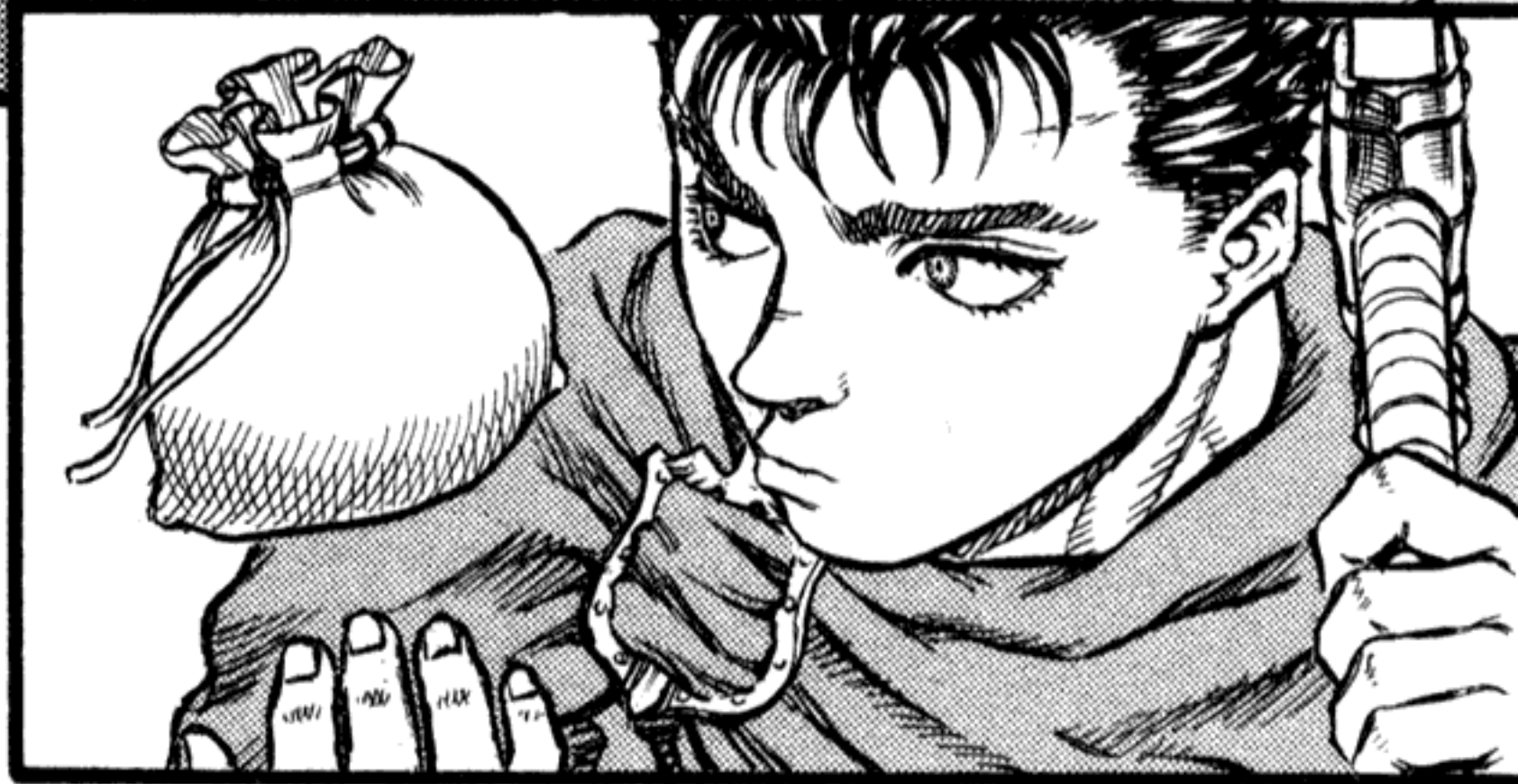
WELL,
I GUESS
IT BEATS A
SOLDIER'S
MEAGER
WAGE.



...

HELL
OF A
WASTE.

MONEY'S
THE KEY
TO ALL
DOORS?



THEY DID
THE WORK
TO EARN
IT.

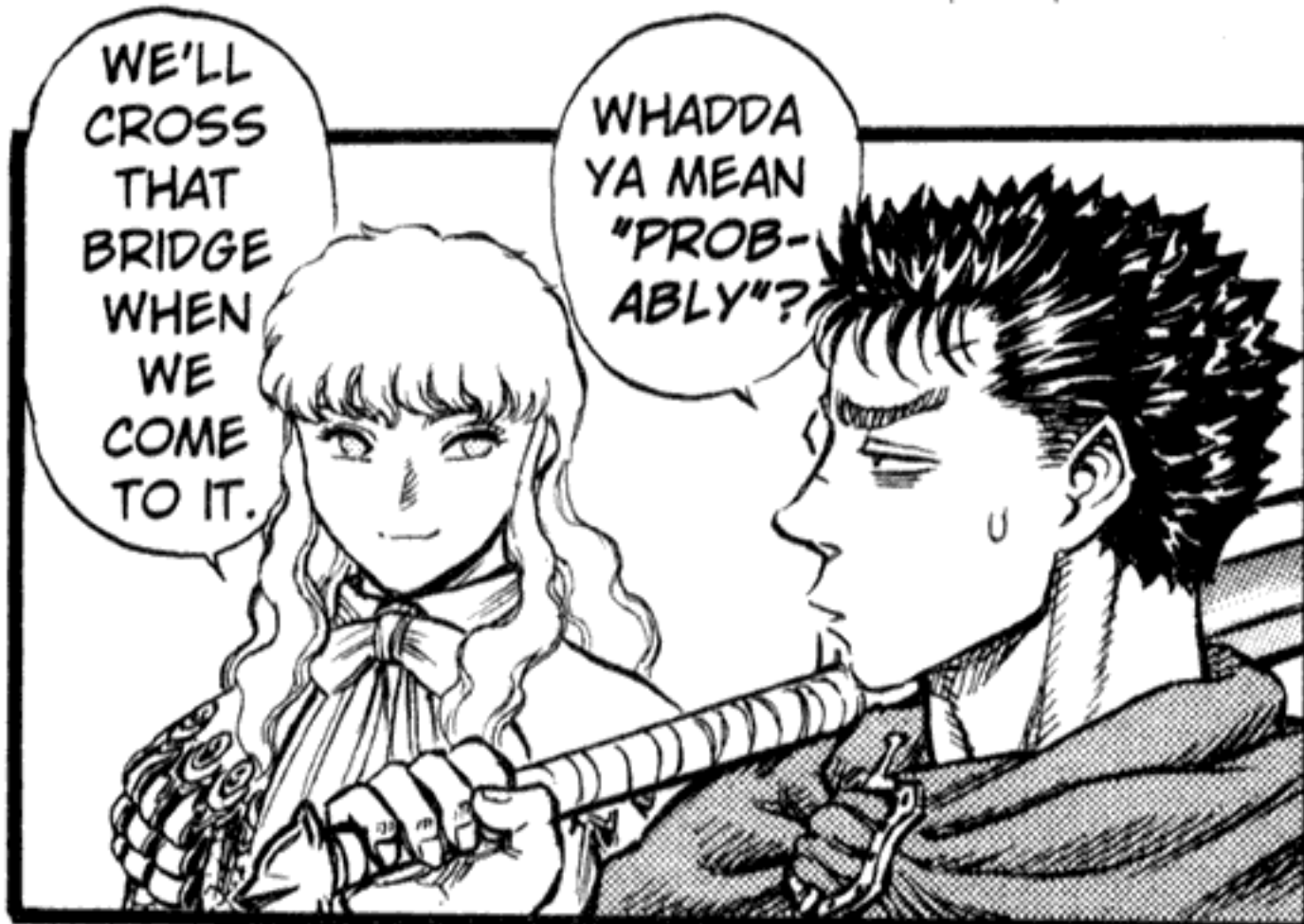
LEAVE
IT WITH
THEM.

THE
MONEY'S
THEIRS
BY
RIGHT.



I CAN'T
PREDICT THE
FUTURE, BUT
PROBABLY...

I
THINK
HE'S
LEARNED
TODAY'S
LESSON.



WE'LL
CROSS
THAT
BRIDGE
WHEN
WE
COME
TO IT.

WHADDA
YA MEAN
"PROB-
ABLY"?



IS IT
SAFE TO
LET THE
LITTLE
BALD GUY
GO?

YEAH.



BUT Y'KNOW,
THE CASTLE'S
GONNA BE UPSET
AGAIN BY ALL THIS.
THIS ONE NIGHT'S
SEEN A MOUNTAIN
OF CORPSES WITH
THE QUEEN
ON TOP.



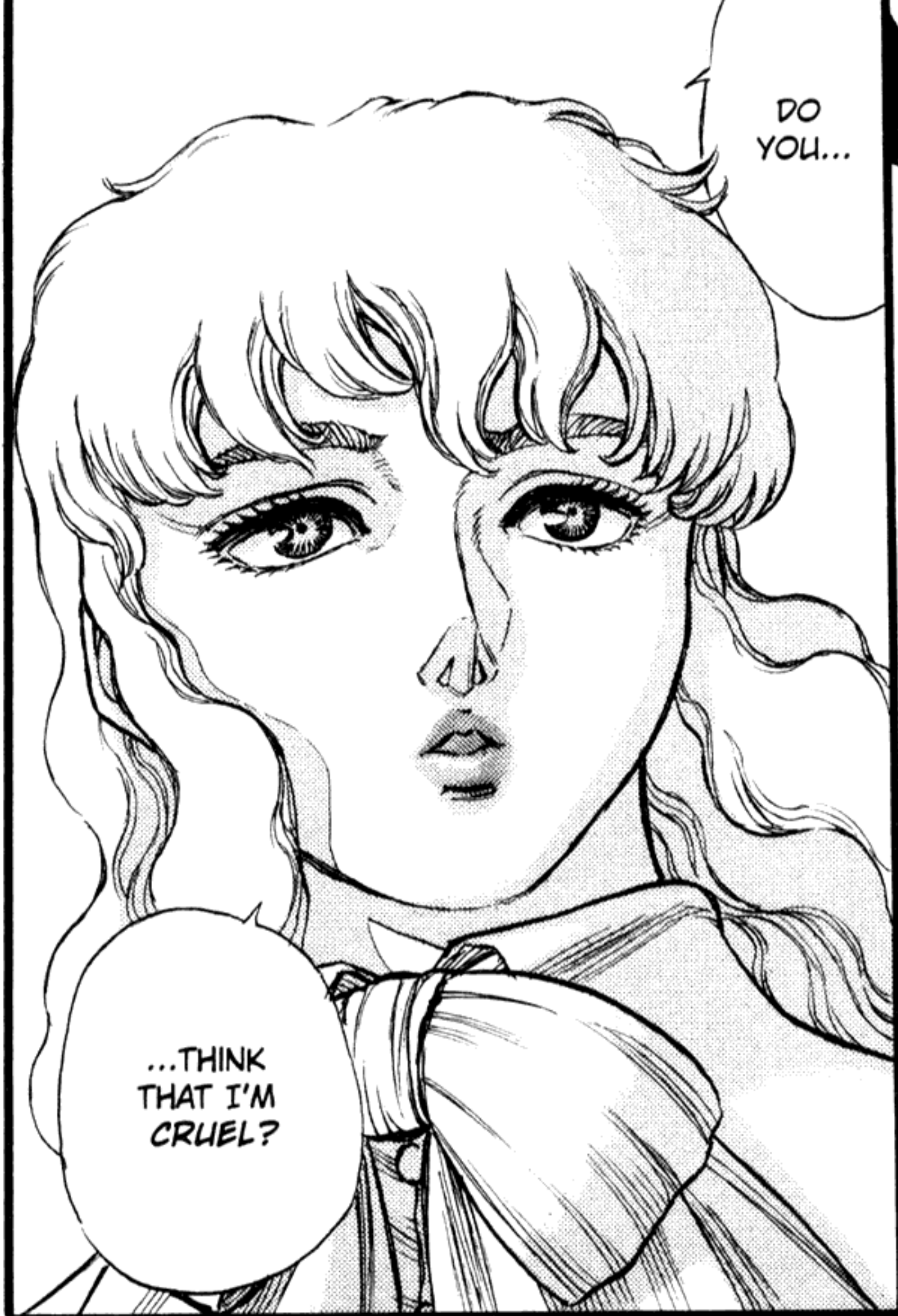
DOES
IT
SEEM
CRUEL?

HUH?



I DOUBT ANYONE'D
EVER SUSPECT
SOMEONE WHO
NEARLY DIED
PULLING IT OFF.

THANKFULLY,
NOT ONE
PERSON WHO
COULD NAME
YOU IS STILL
AROUND.



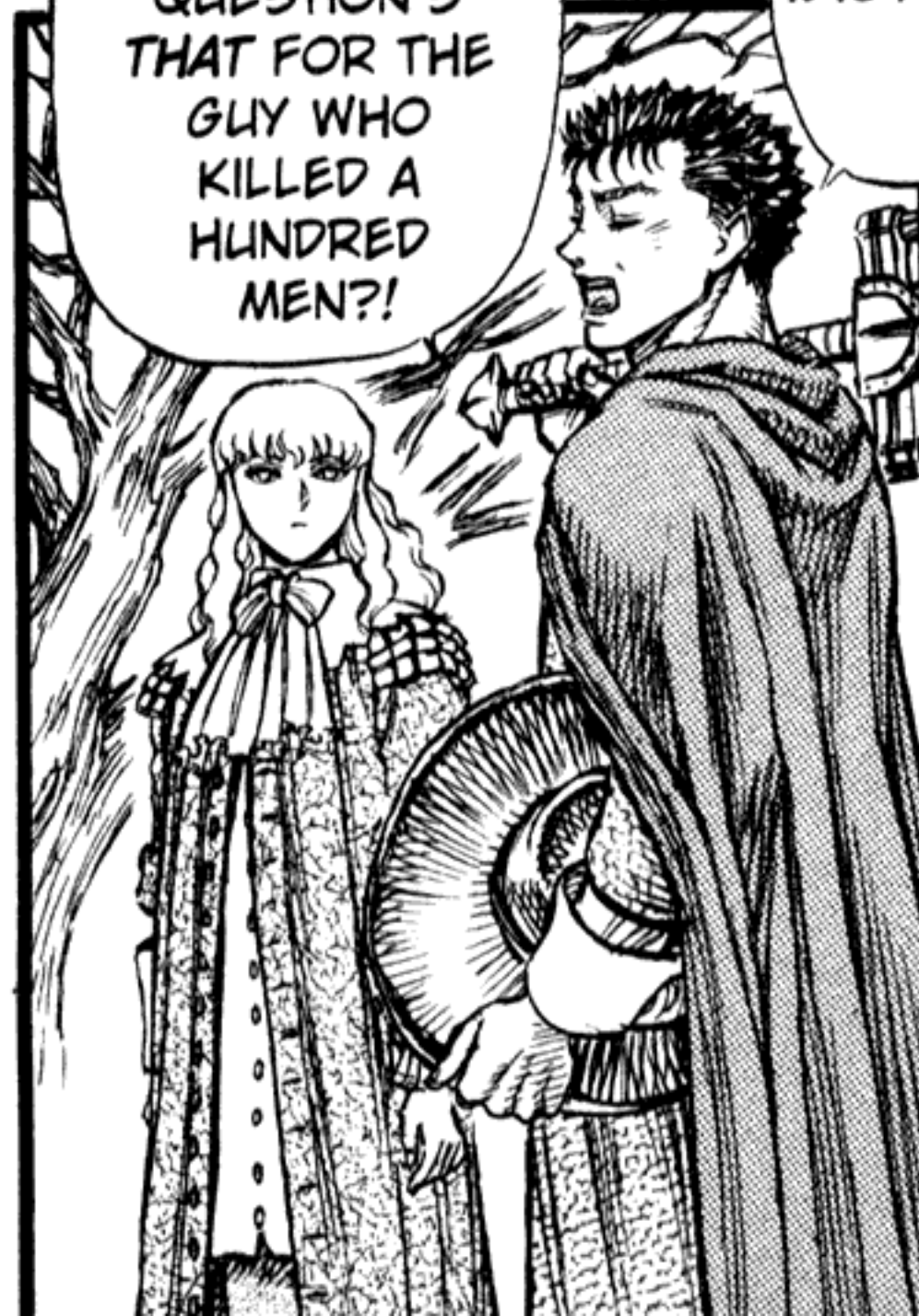
DO
YOU...

...THINK
THAT I'M
CRUEL?



WHAT KINDA
QUESTION'S
THAT FOR THE
GUY WHO
KILLED A
HUNDRED
MEN?!

IDIOT!



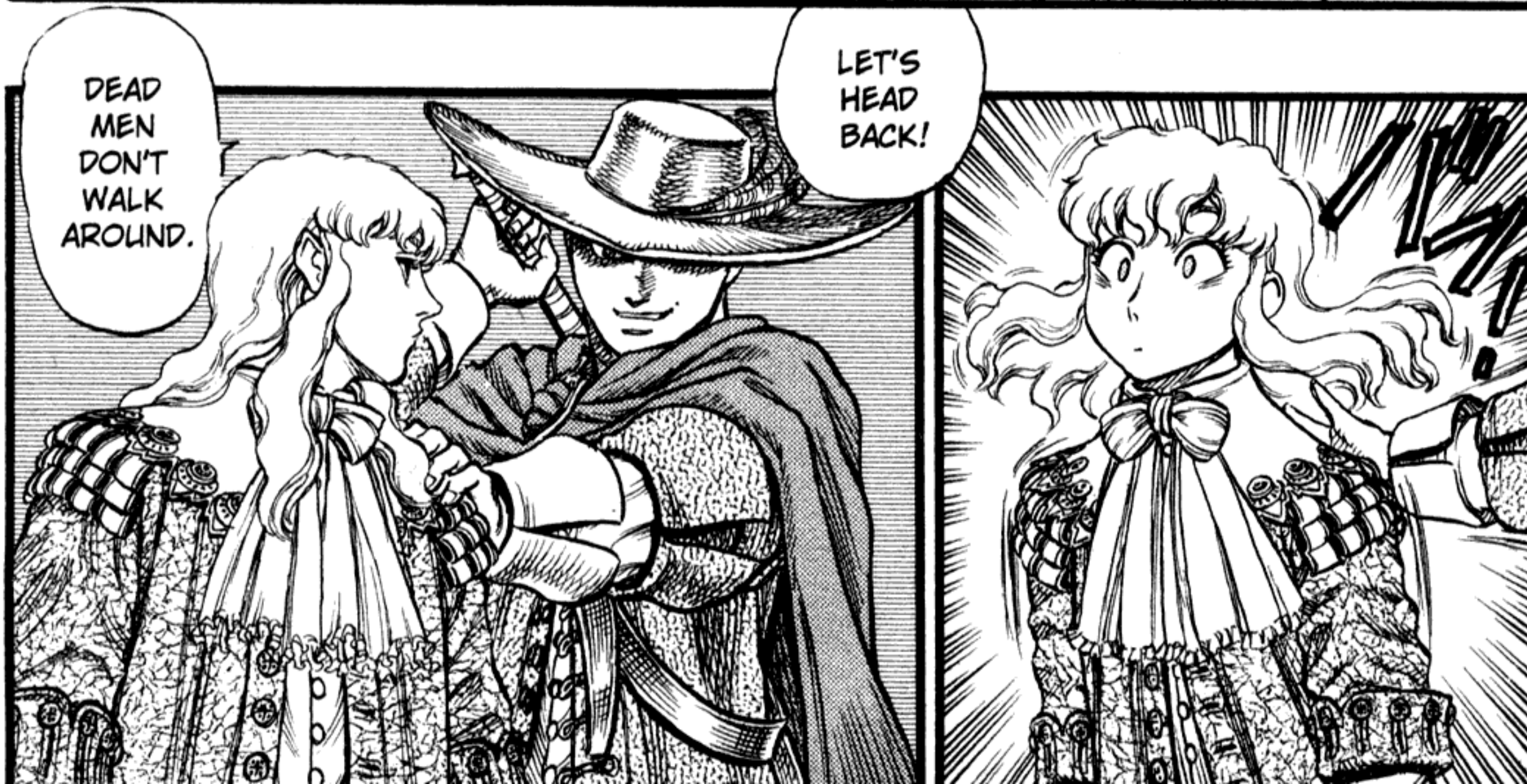
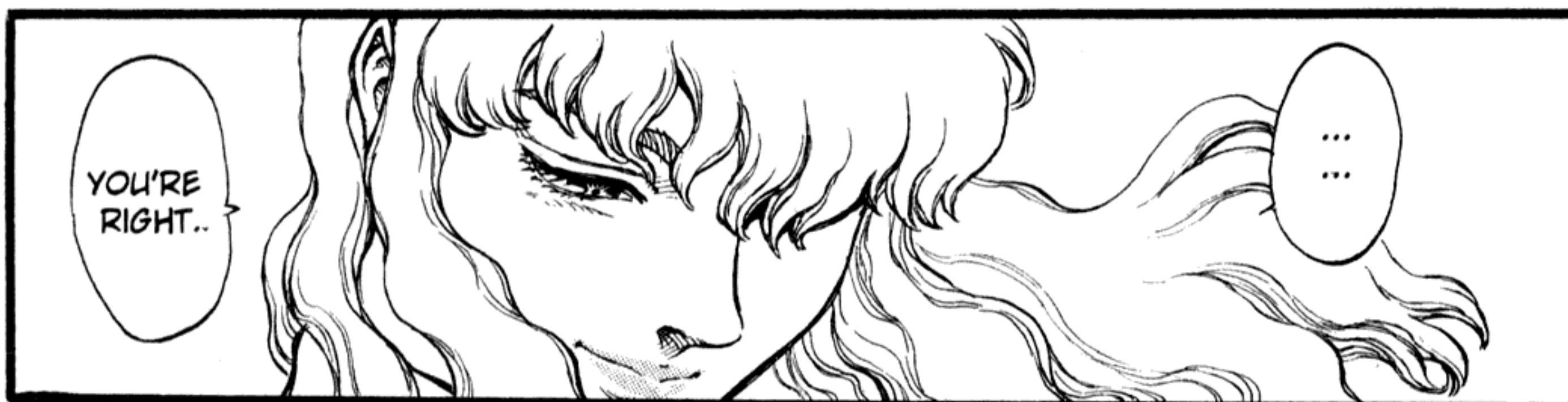
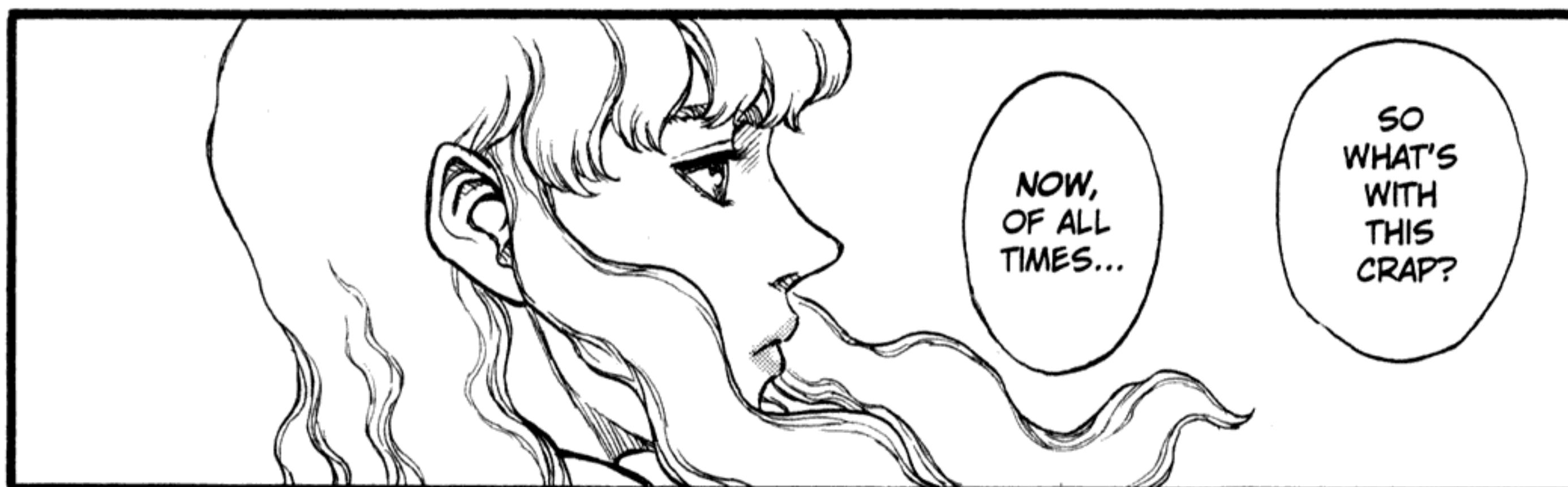
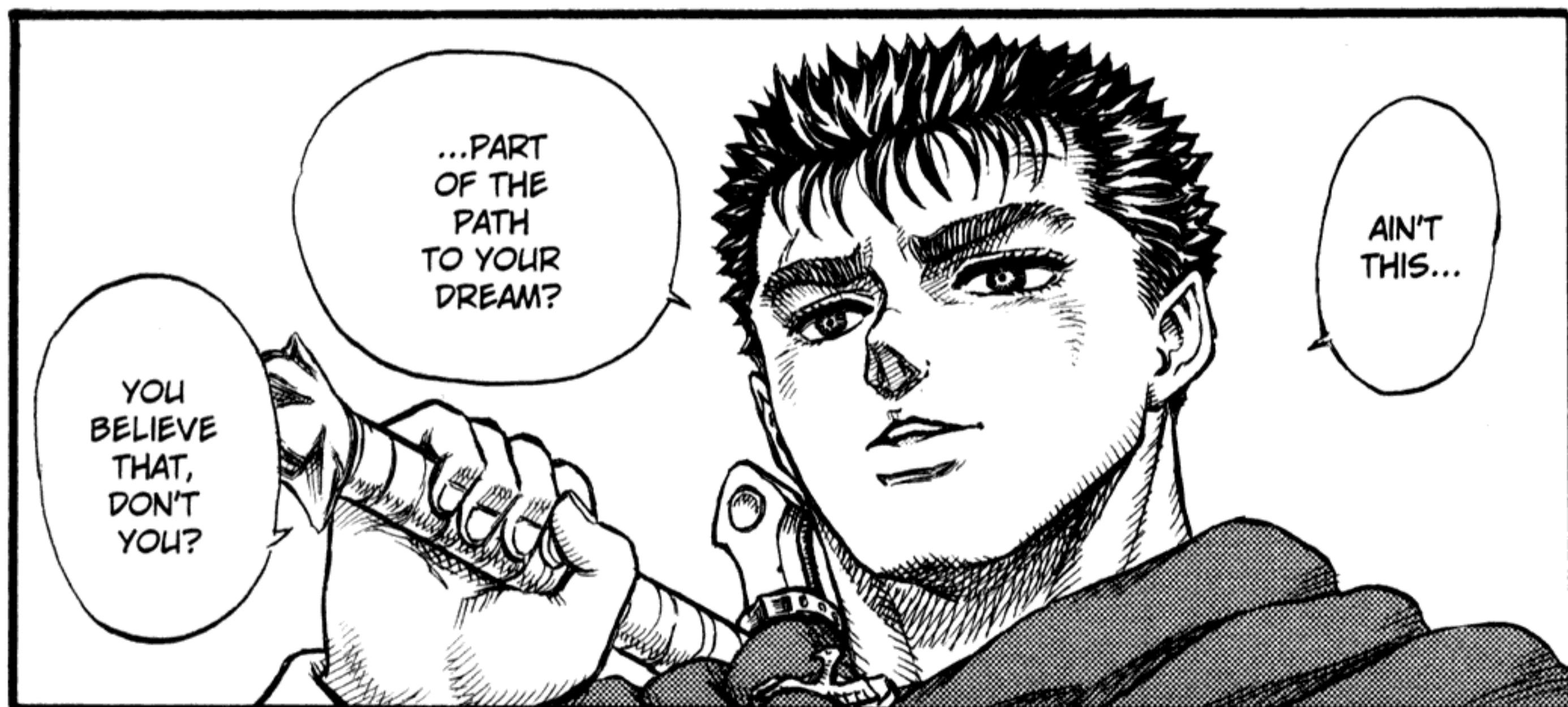
...

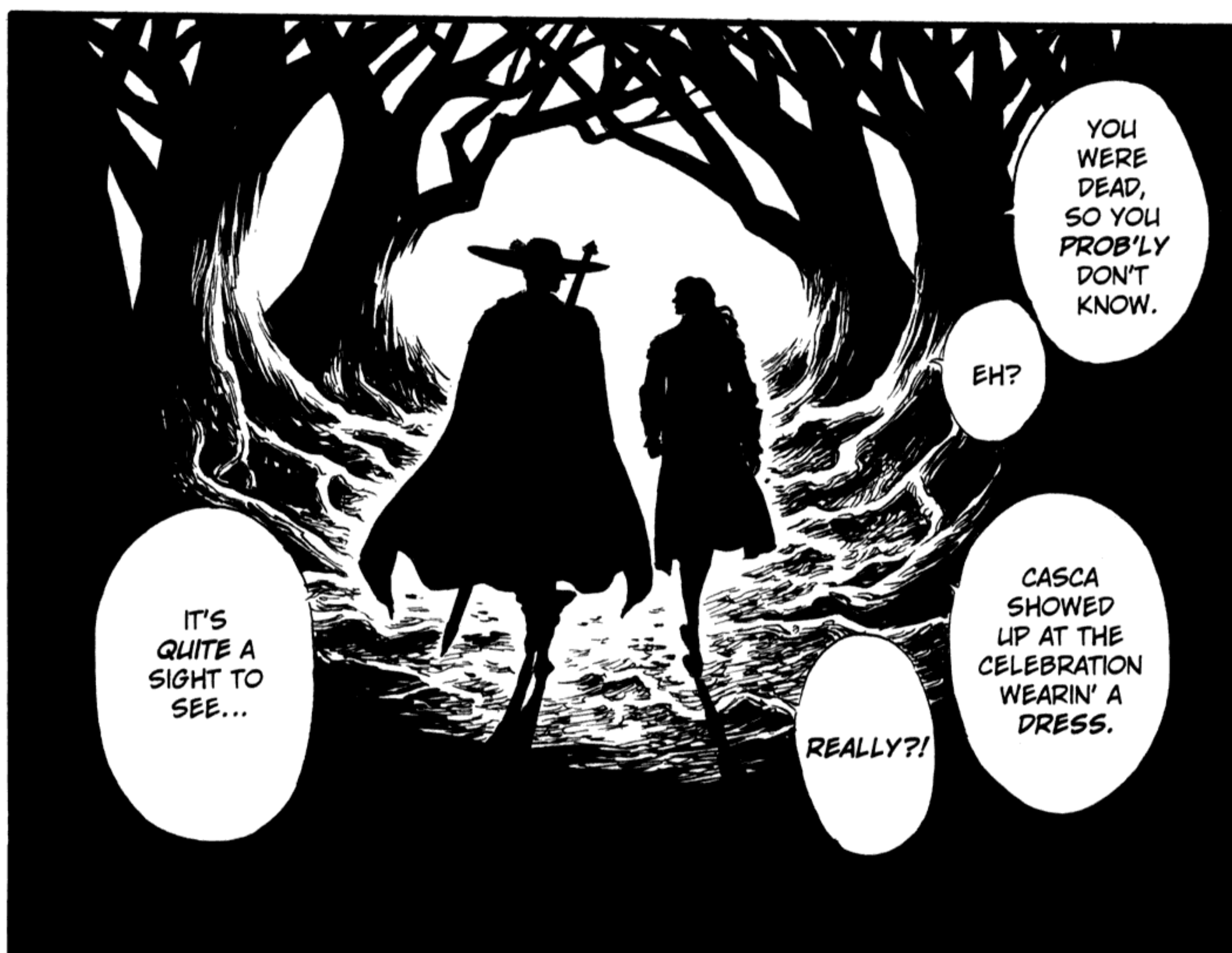
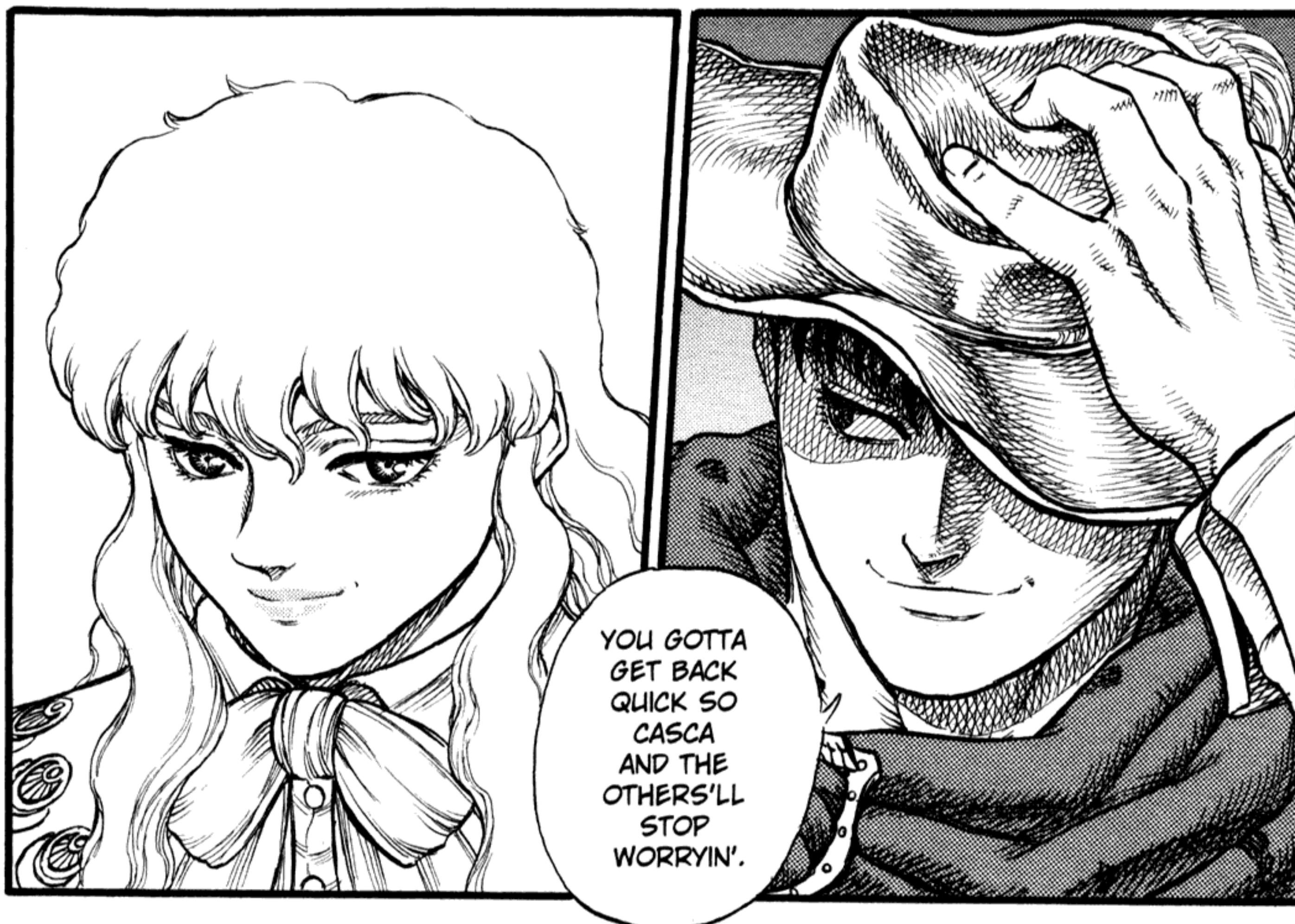


I
INVOLVED
YOU IN
THIS
FILTHY
SCHEME...

...AND I
DIDN'T
EVEN
GET MY
HANDS
DIRTY.

I LEFT
ALL THE
DANGEROUS,
TAXING
WORK TO
YOU...

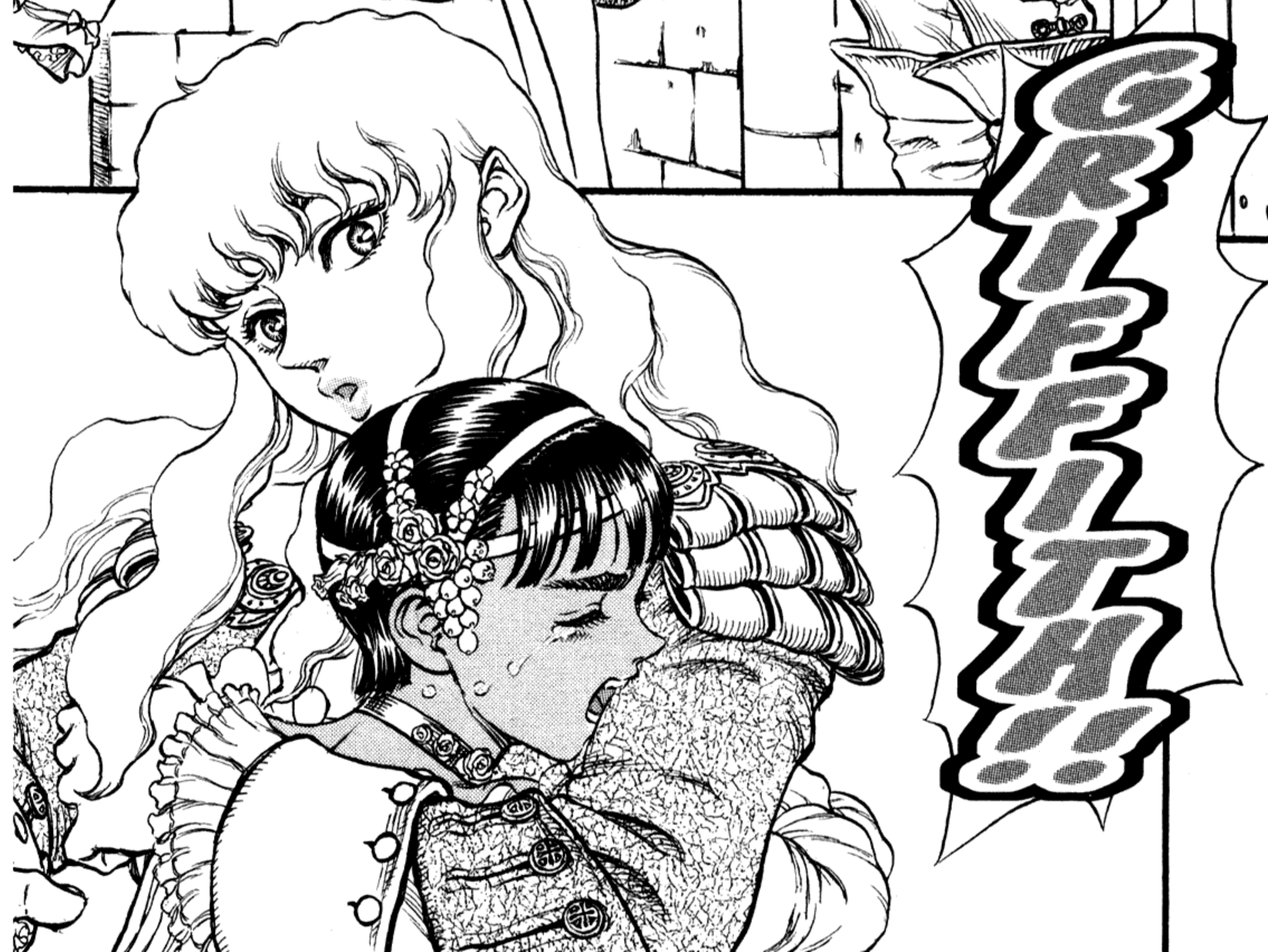
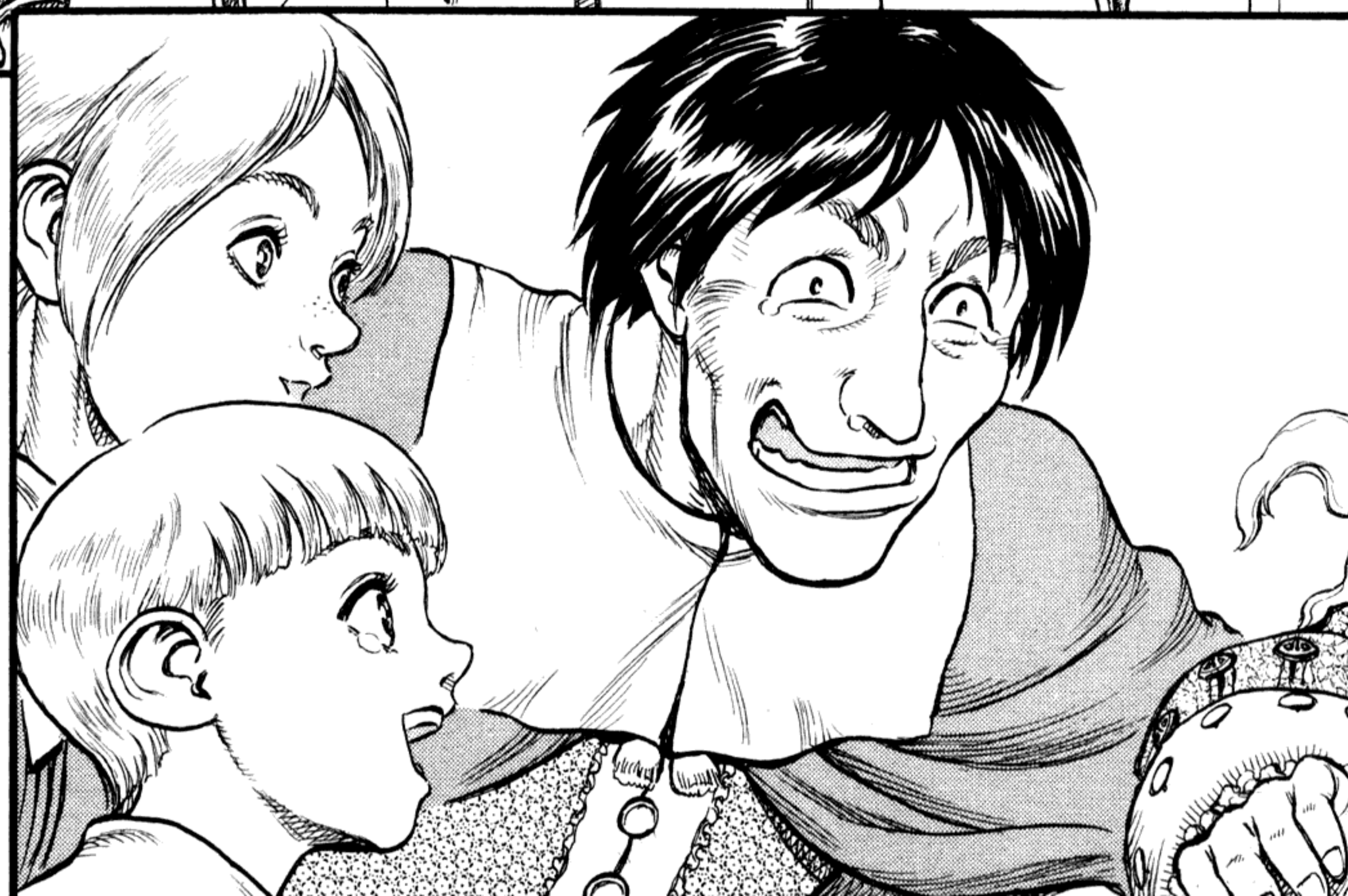




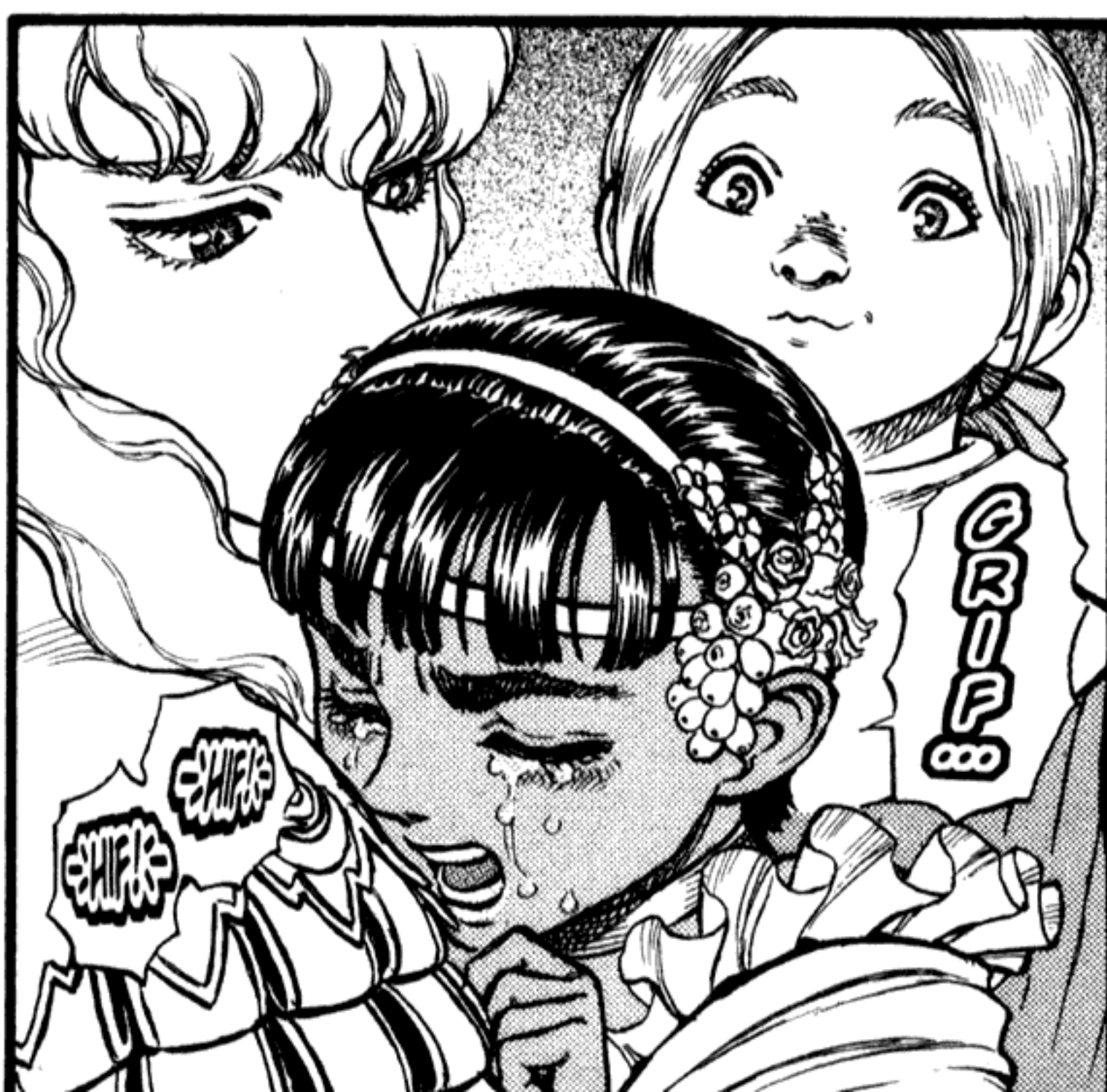
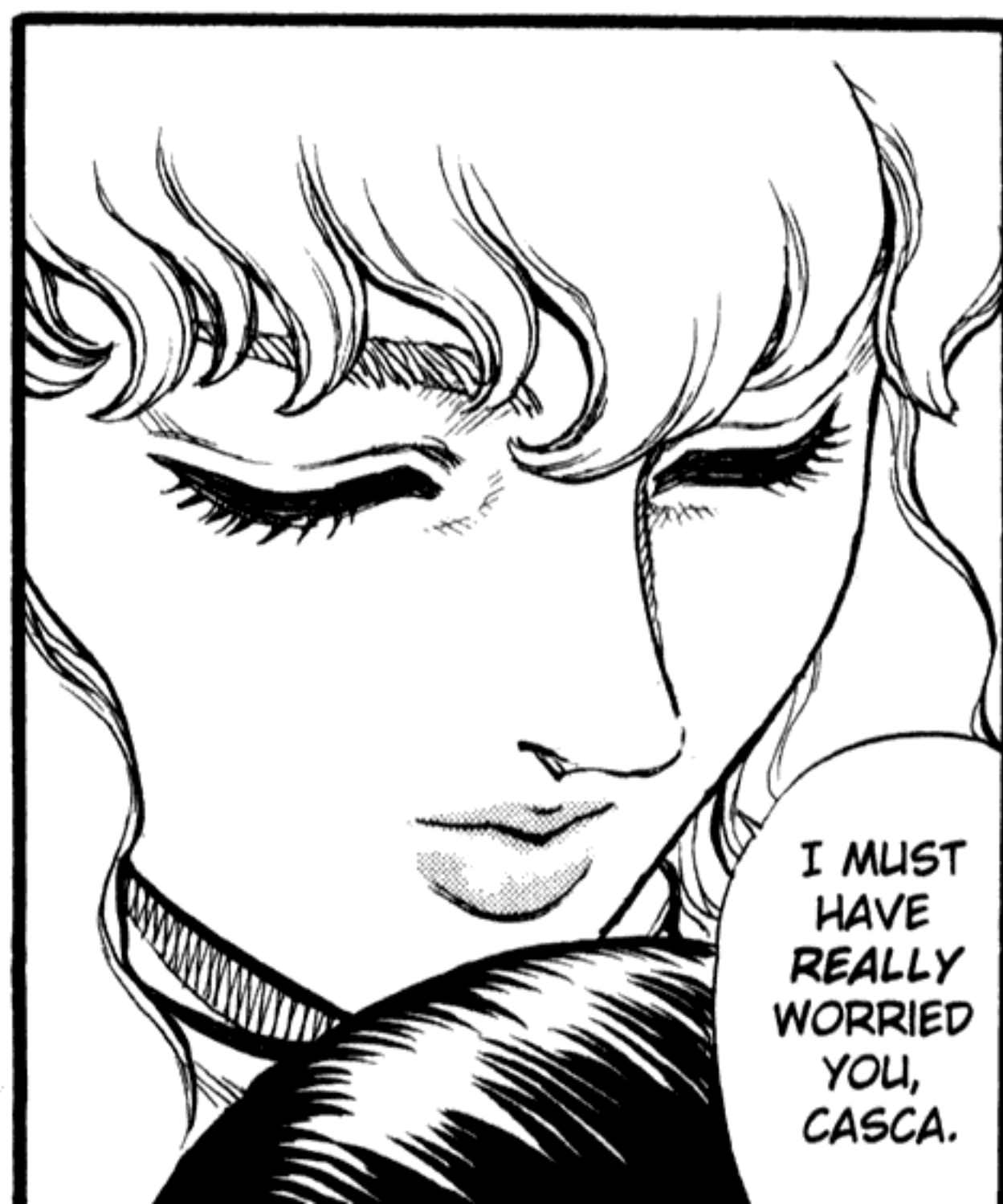
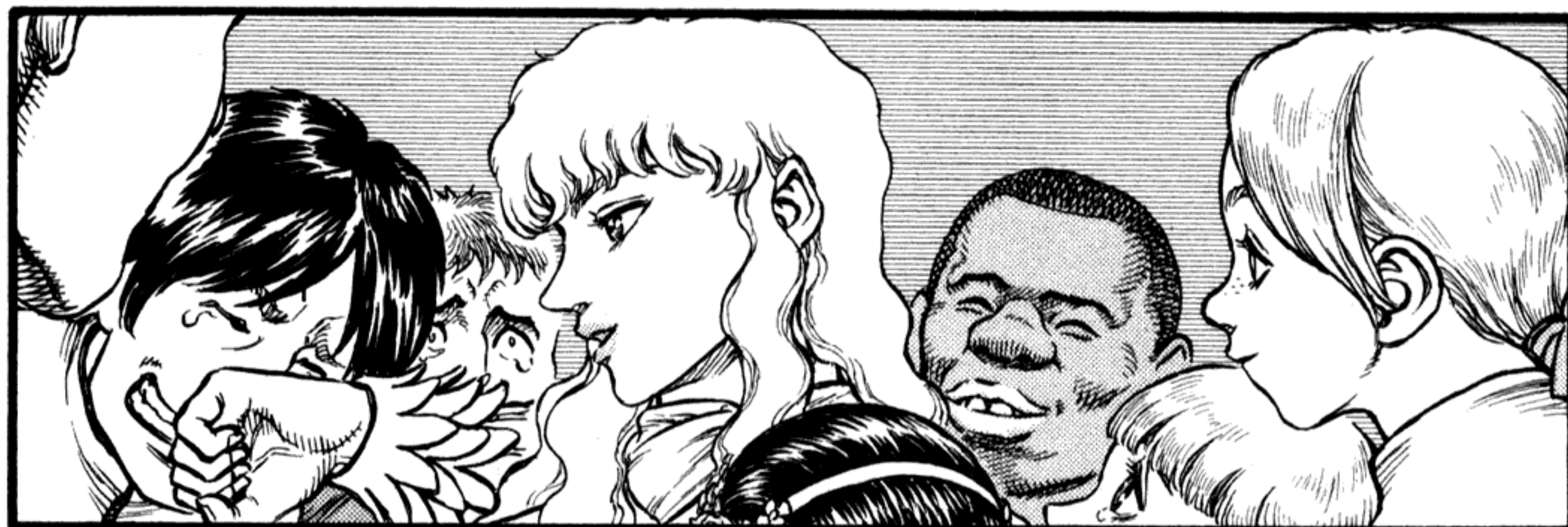
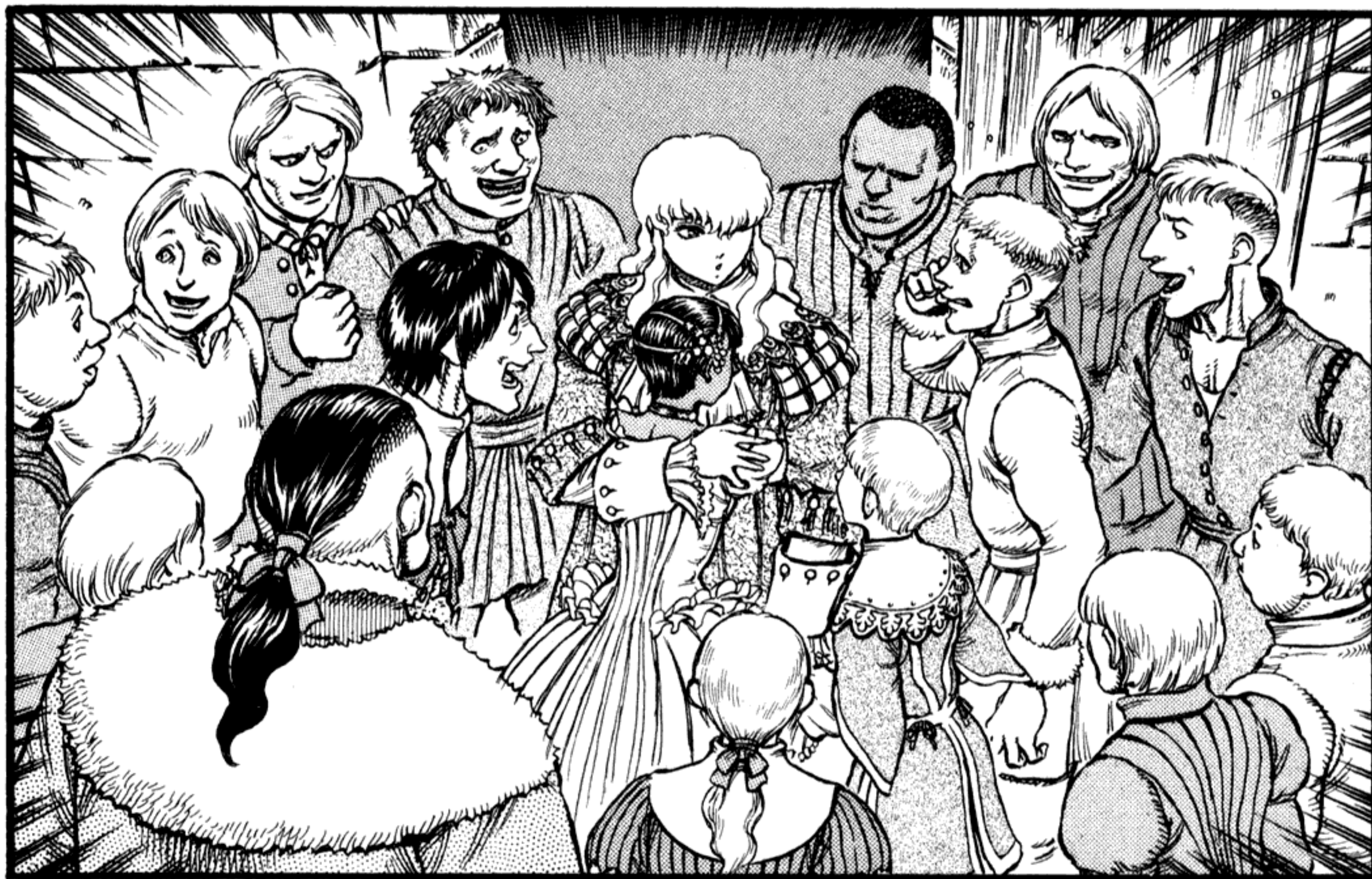


ONE SNOWY NIGHT



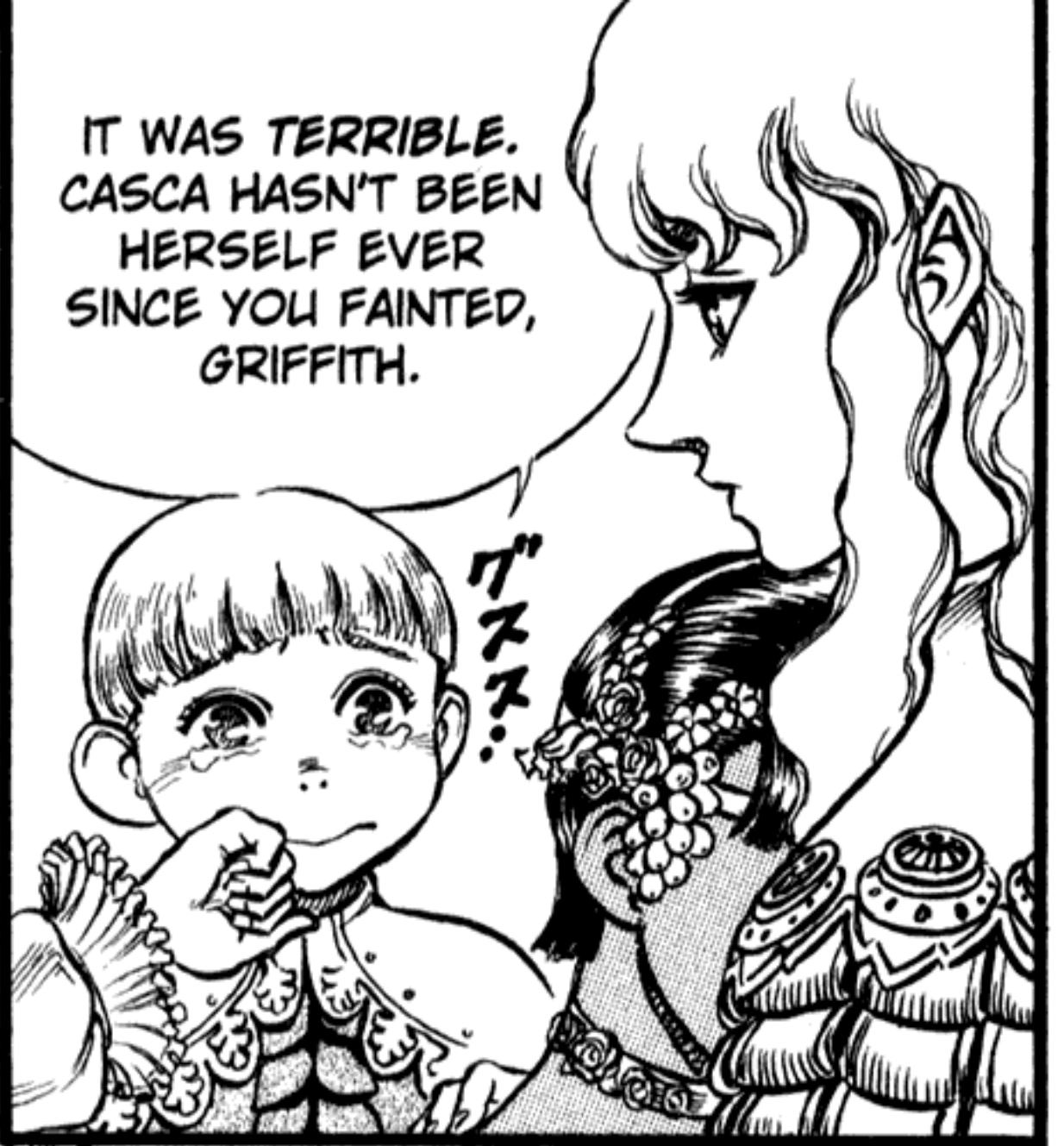


GRIFITTA





IT WAS TERRIBLE.
CASCA HASN'T BEEN
HERSELF EVER
SINCE YOU FAINTED,
GRIFFITH.

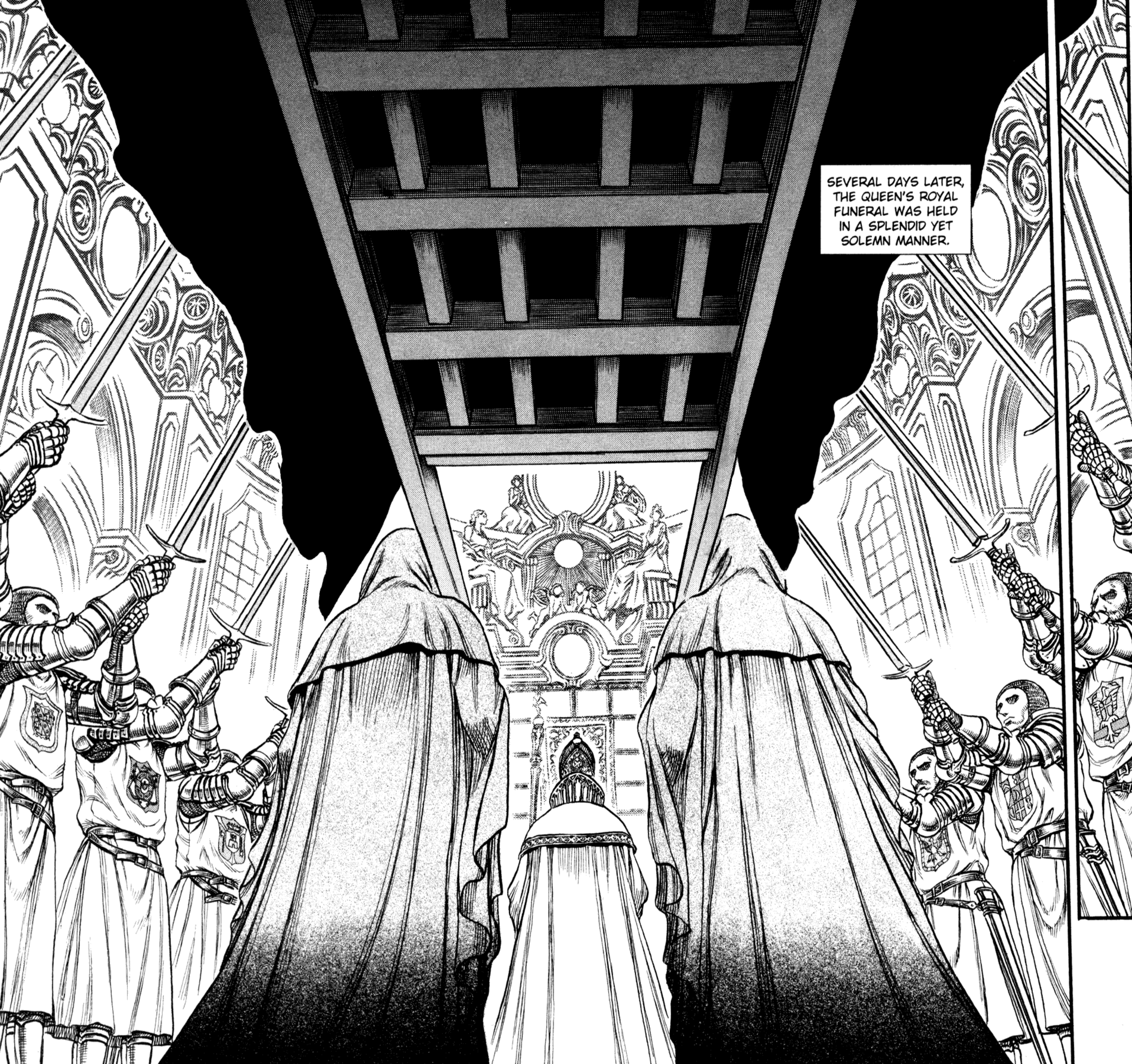


SORRY.

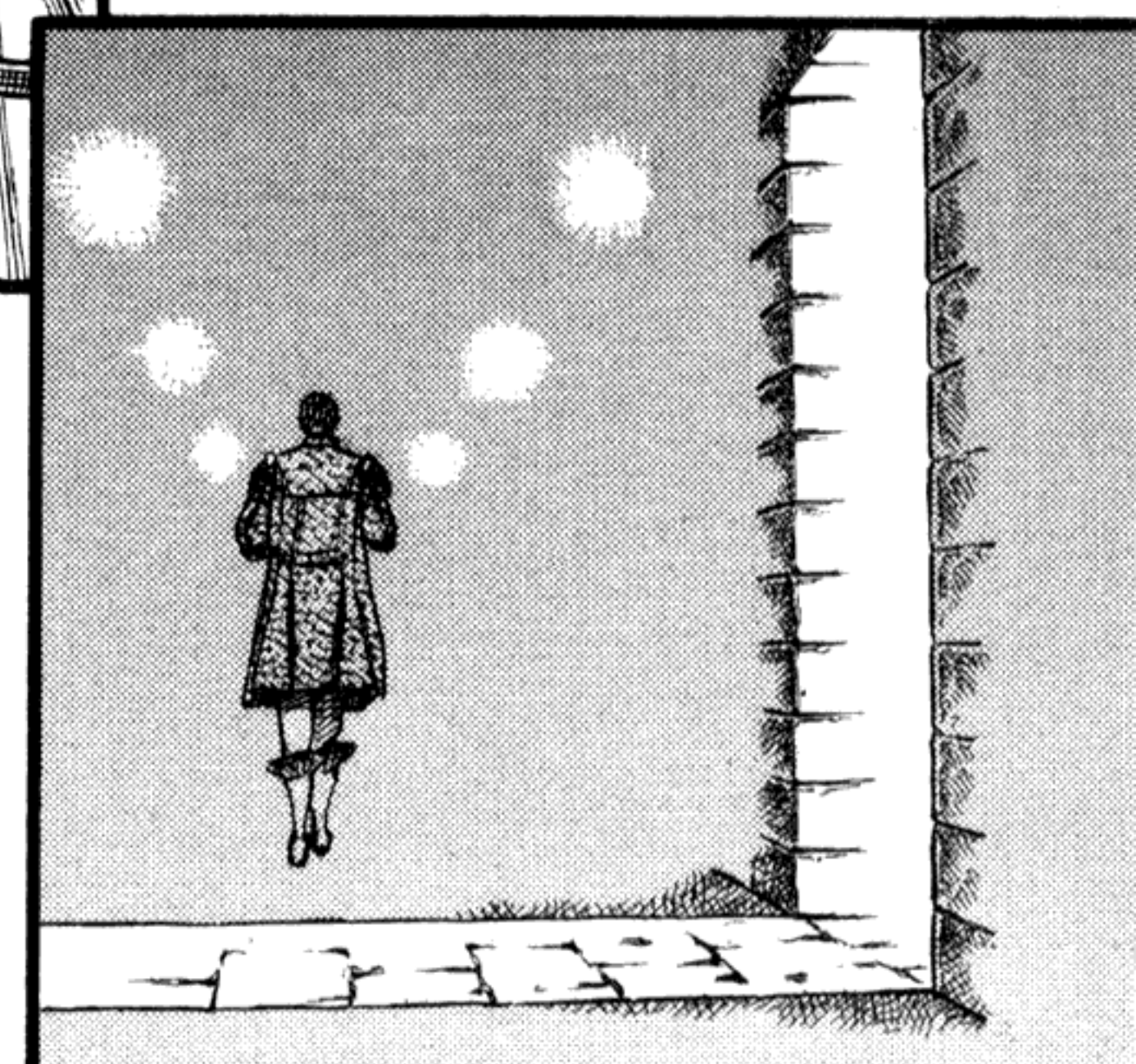
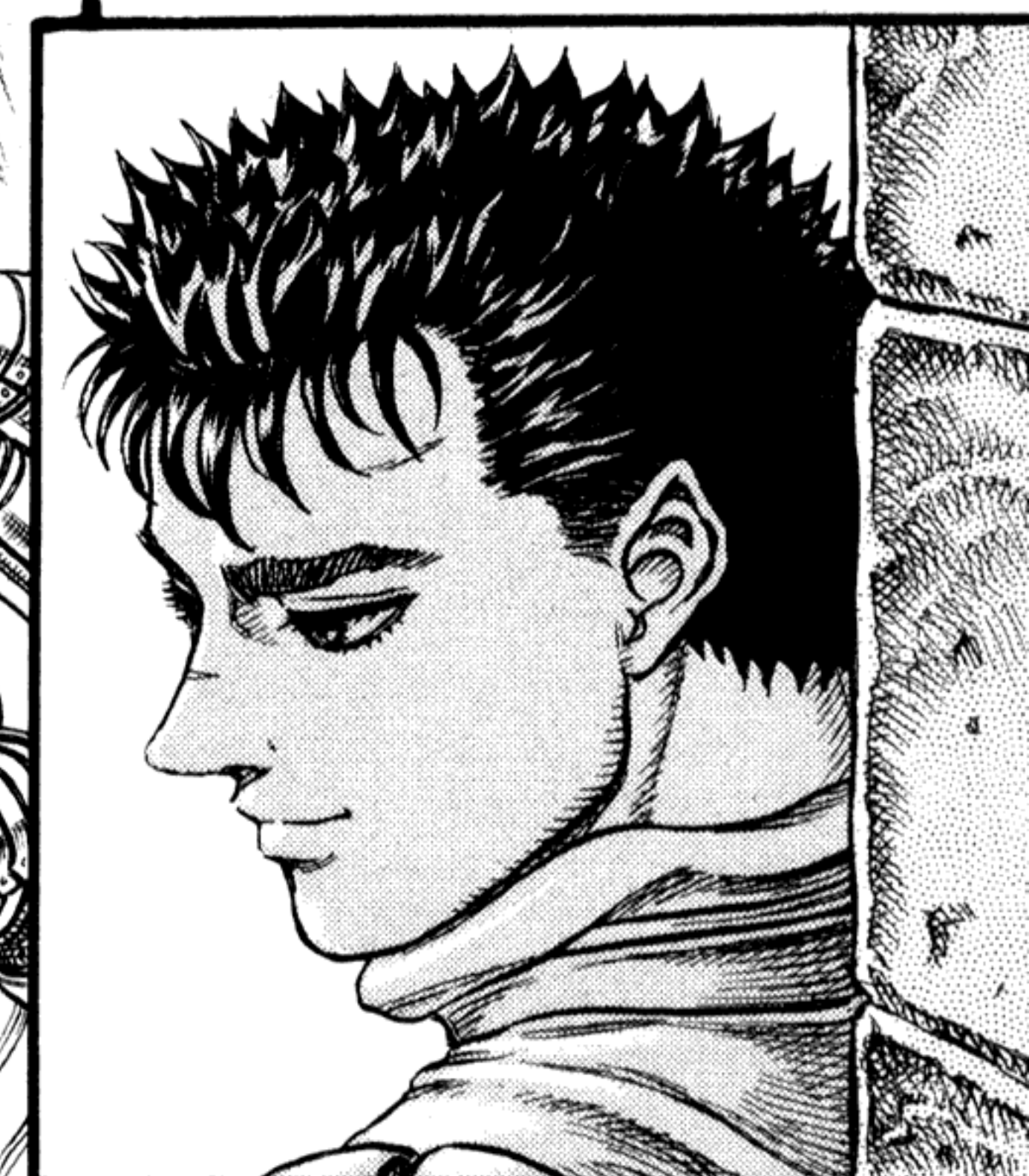
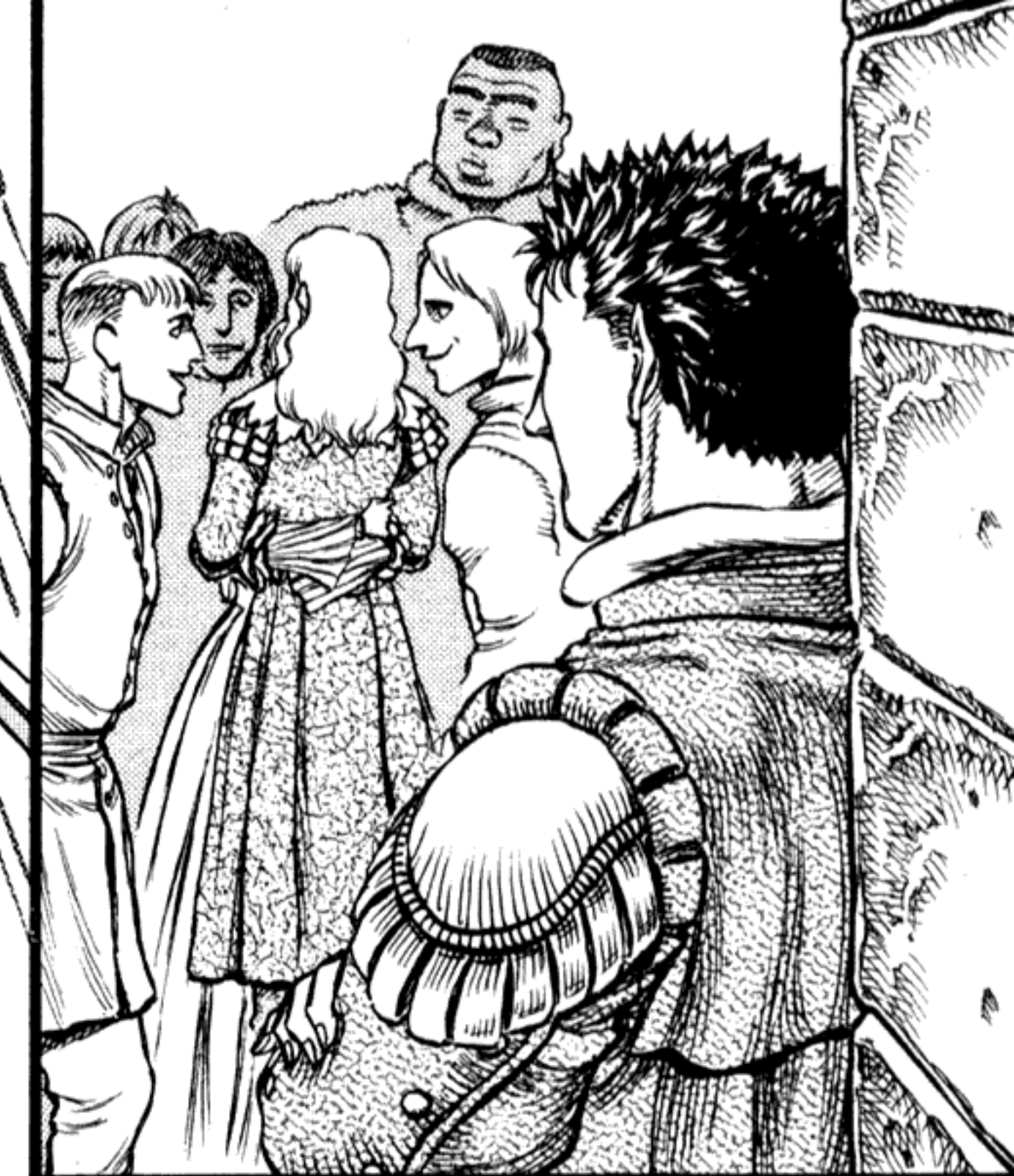


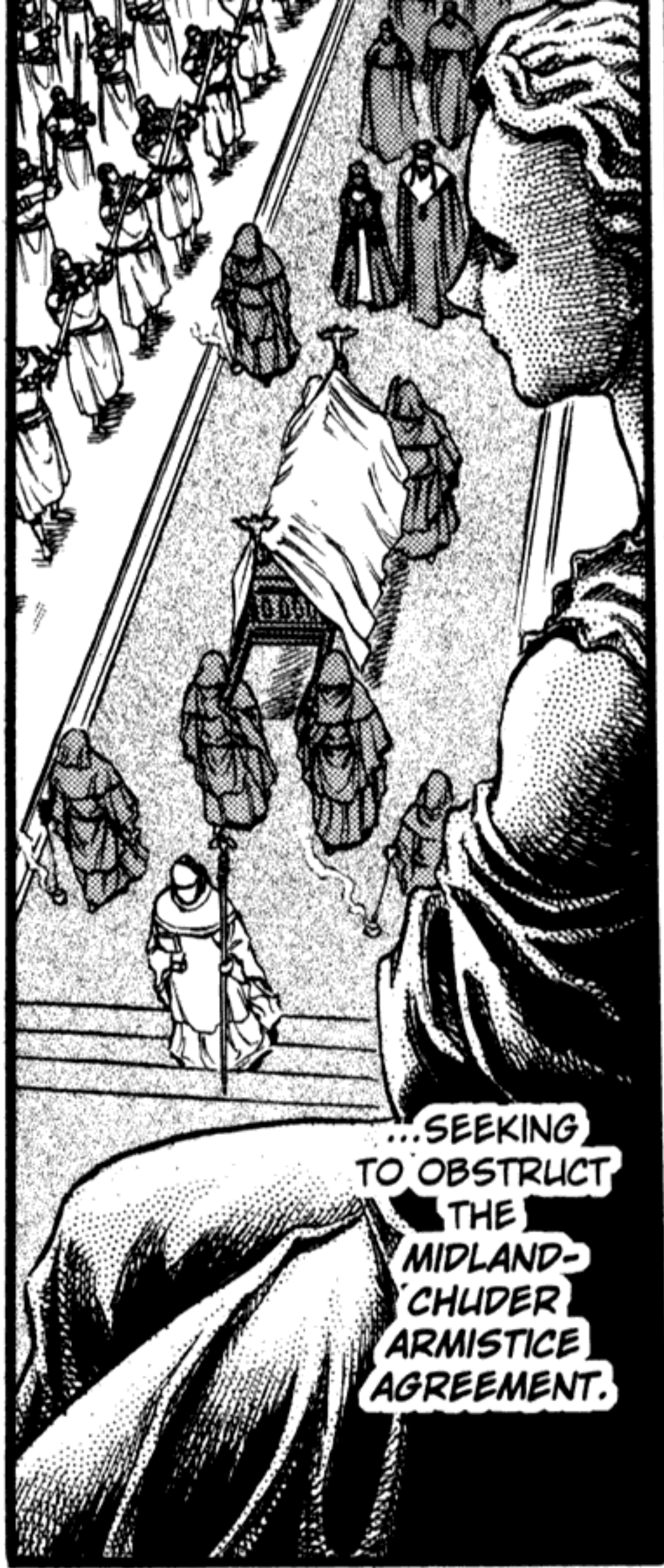
THIS
DRESS
LOOKS
GOOD
ON YOU.





SEVERAL DAYS LATER,
THE QUEEN'S ROYAL
FUNERAL WAS HELD
IN A SPLENDID YET
SOLEMN MANNER.



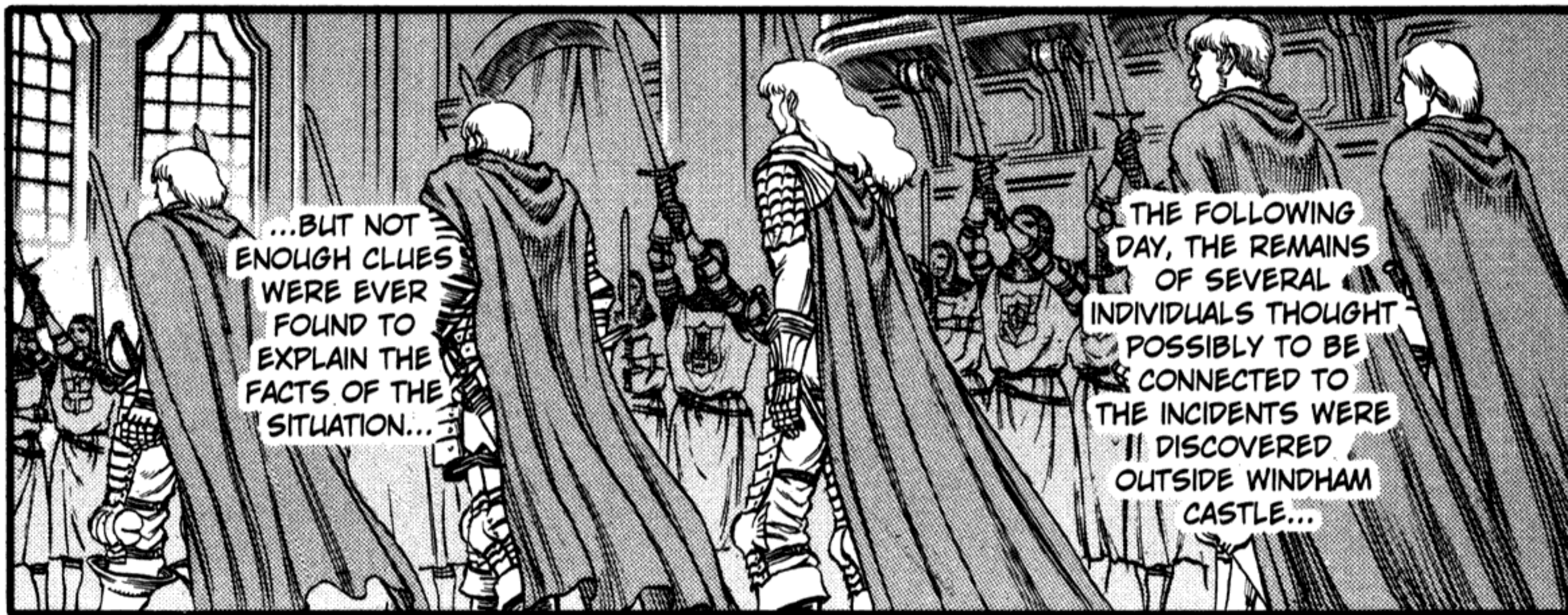


...SEEKING
TO OBSTRUCT
THE
MIDLAND-
CHUDER
ARMISTICE
AGREEMENT.



...FELL INTO
THE REALM
OF WHISPERED
RUMOR. IT WAS
SAID THAT IT
HAD BEEN
THE WORK OF
CHUDER HARD-
LINERS OR
POSSIBLY AN
ASSASSIN FROM
A THIRD
COUNTRY...

THE ENIGMATIC
DEATHS OF
THE QUEEN
AND THE
CONSERVATIVE
MINISTERS,
ALONG WITH
THE ATTEMPTED
ASSASSINATION
OF COUNT
GRIFFITH ON THE
SAME NIGHT...

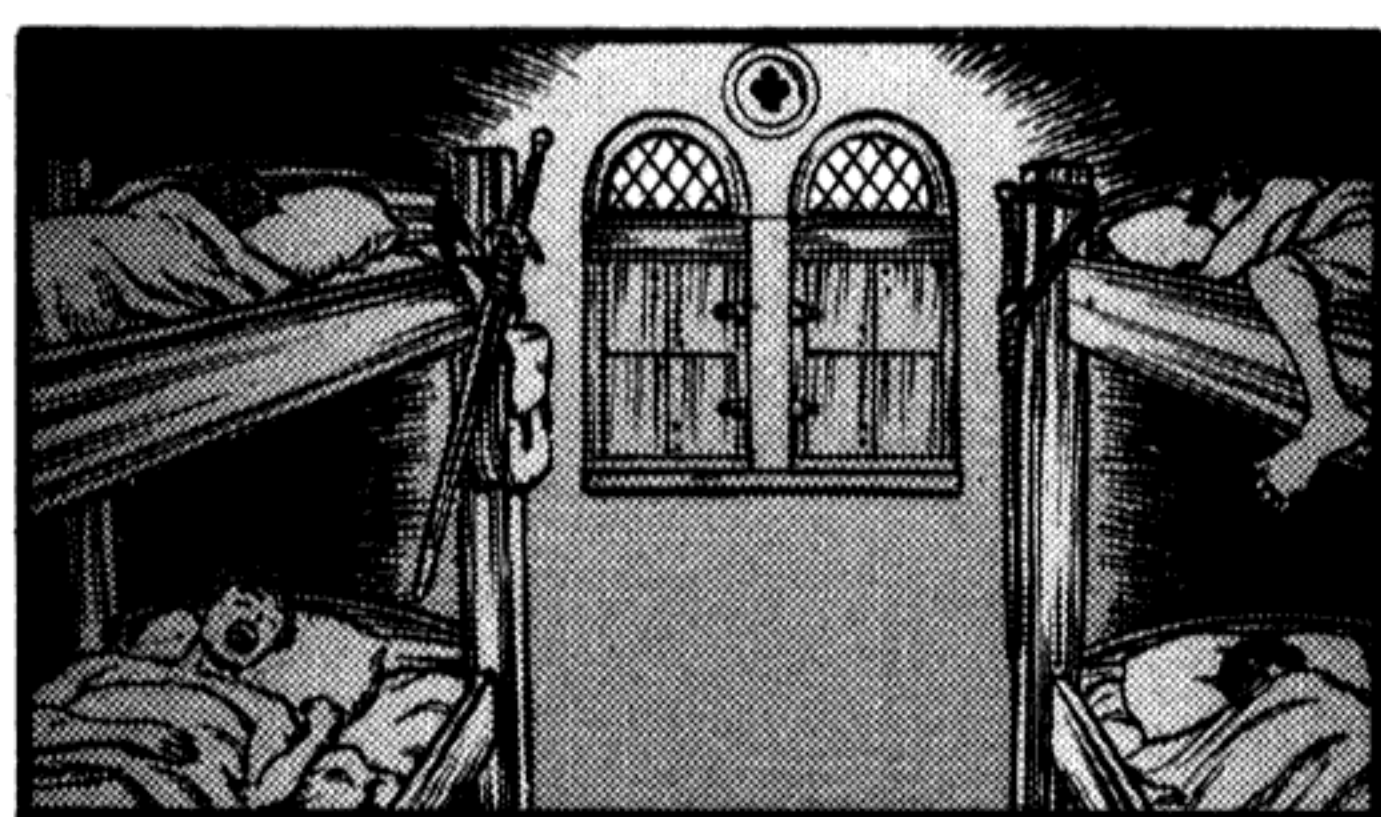
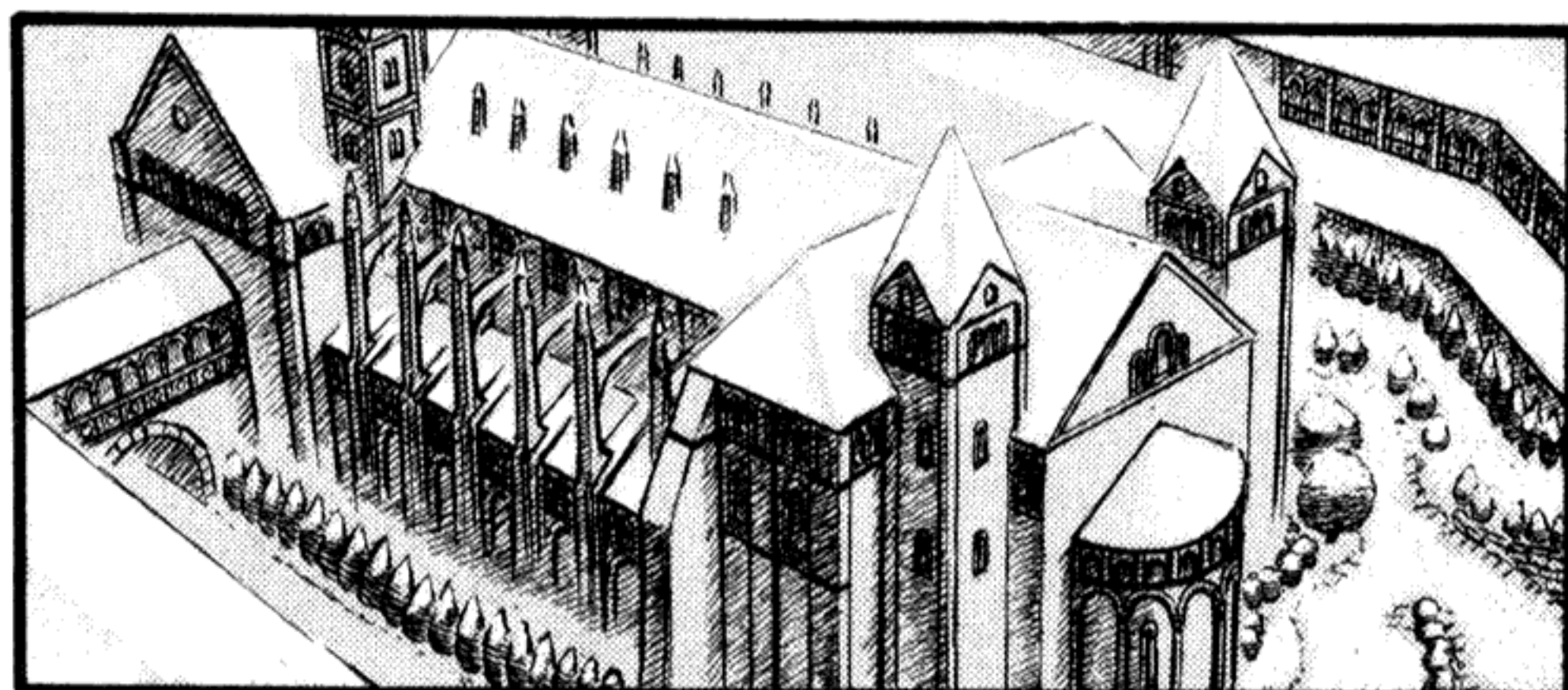
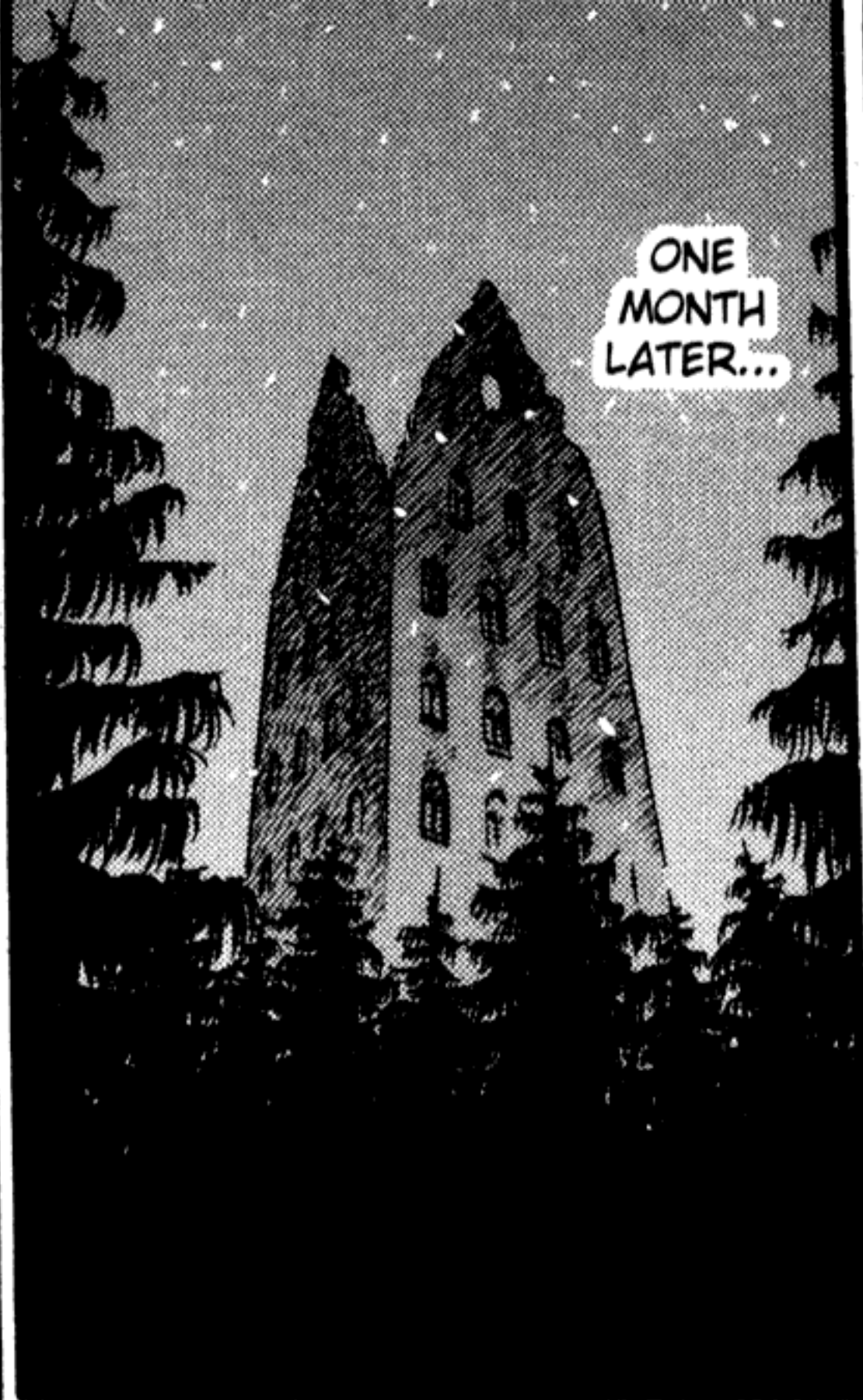
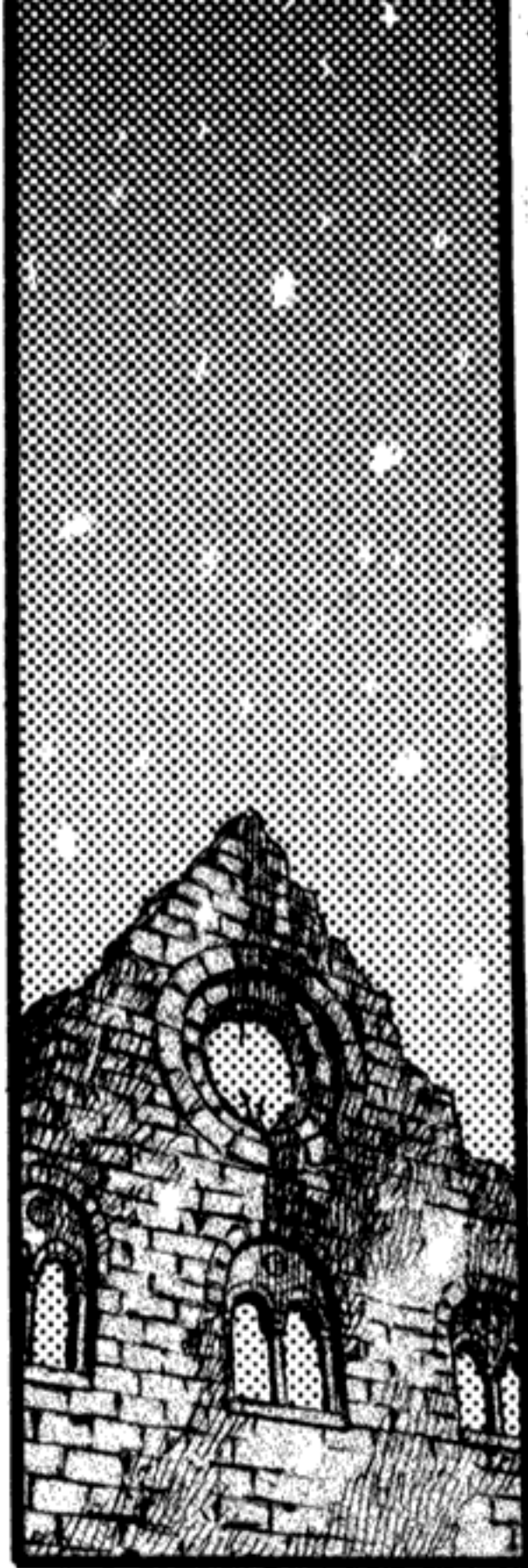
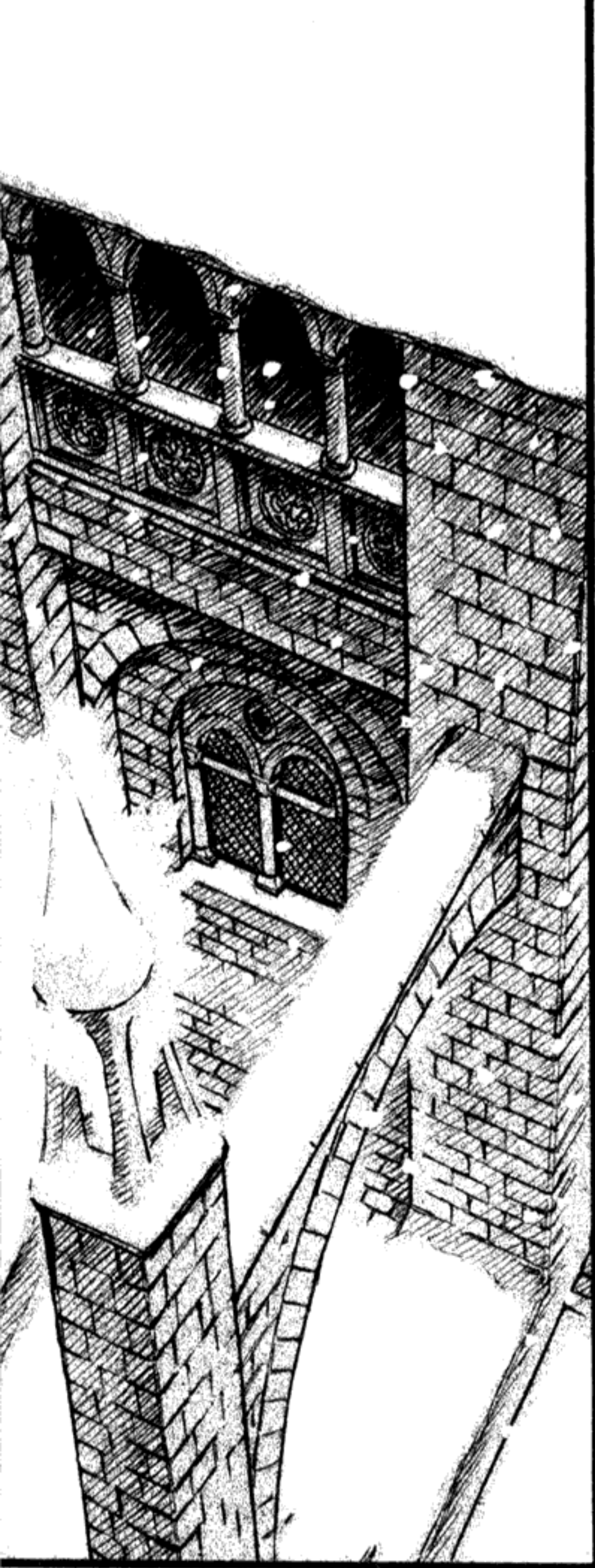


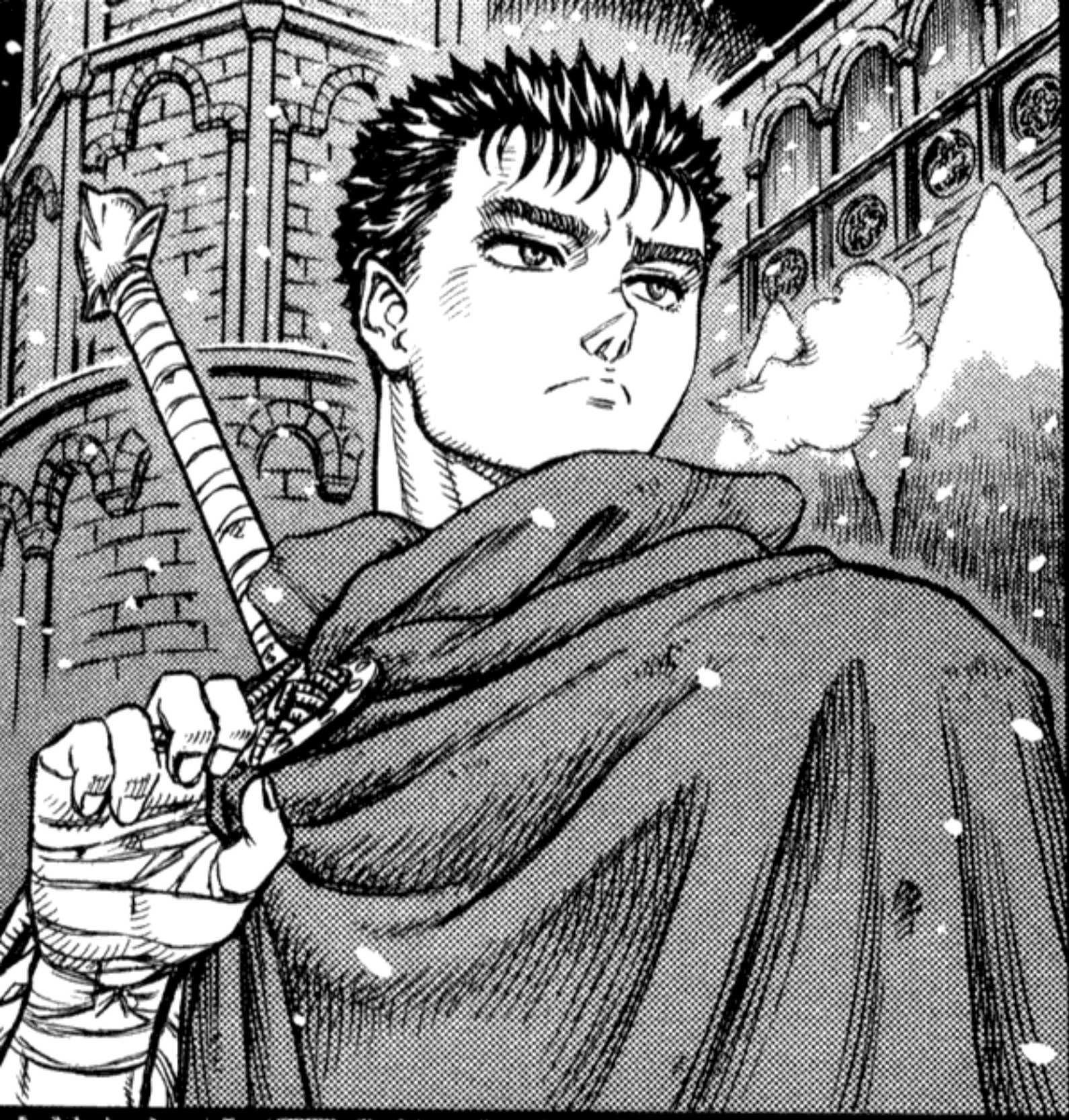
...BUT NOT
ENOUGH CLUES
WERE EVER
FOUND TO
EXPLAIN THE
FACTS OF THE
SITUATION...

THE FOLLOWING
DAY, THE REMAINS
OF SEVERAL
INDIVIDUALS THOUGHT
POSSIBLY TO BE
CONNECTED TO
THE INCIDENTS WERE
DISCOVERED
OUTSIDE WINDHAM
CASTLE...

...VANISHED
INTO THE
DARKNESS.

THE
TRUTH...





IS THAT IT?

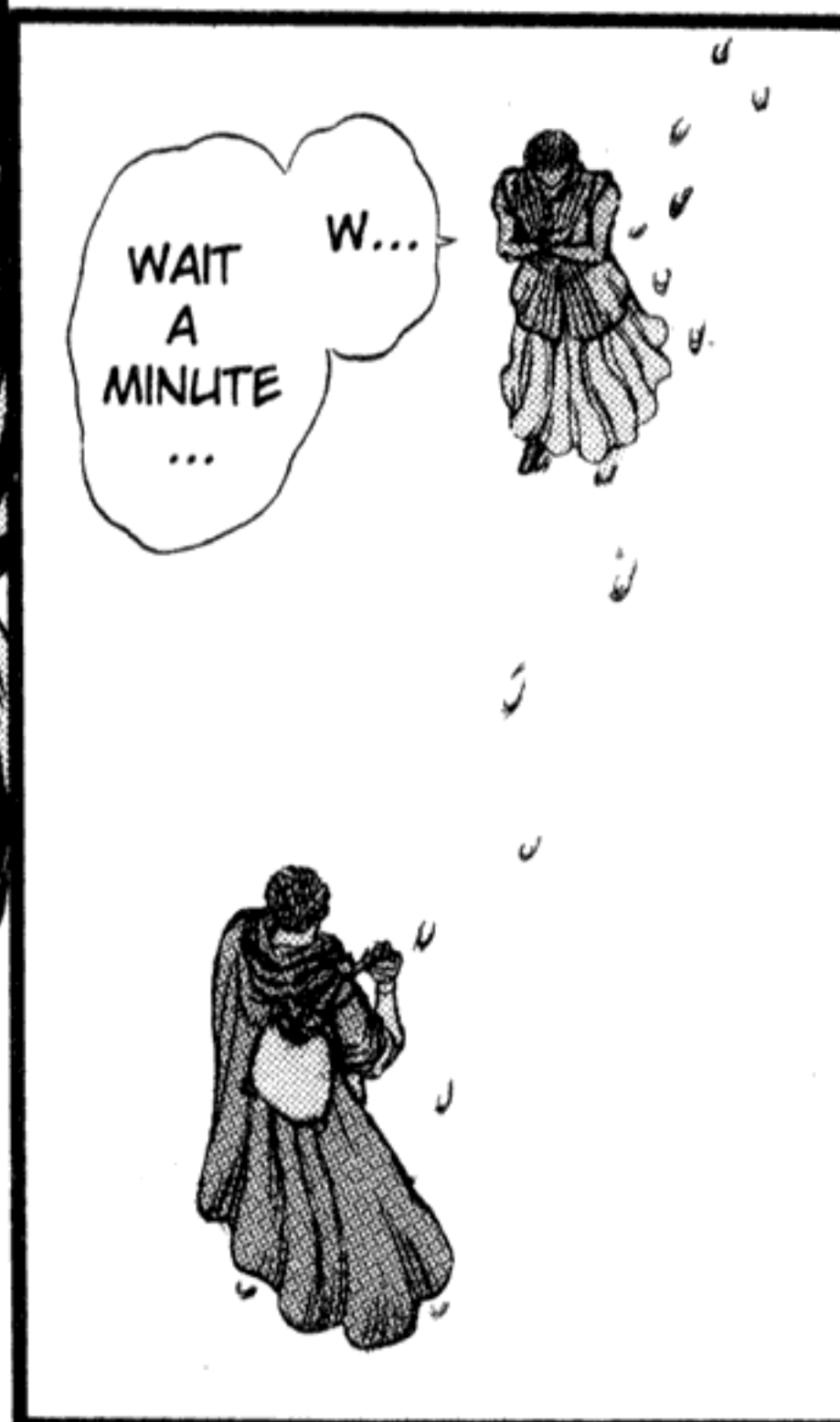
... LEAVING?

ARE YOU ...



...ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND ABOUT IT.

I'VE...



WAIT A MINUTE ...

W...

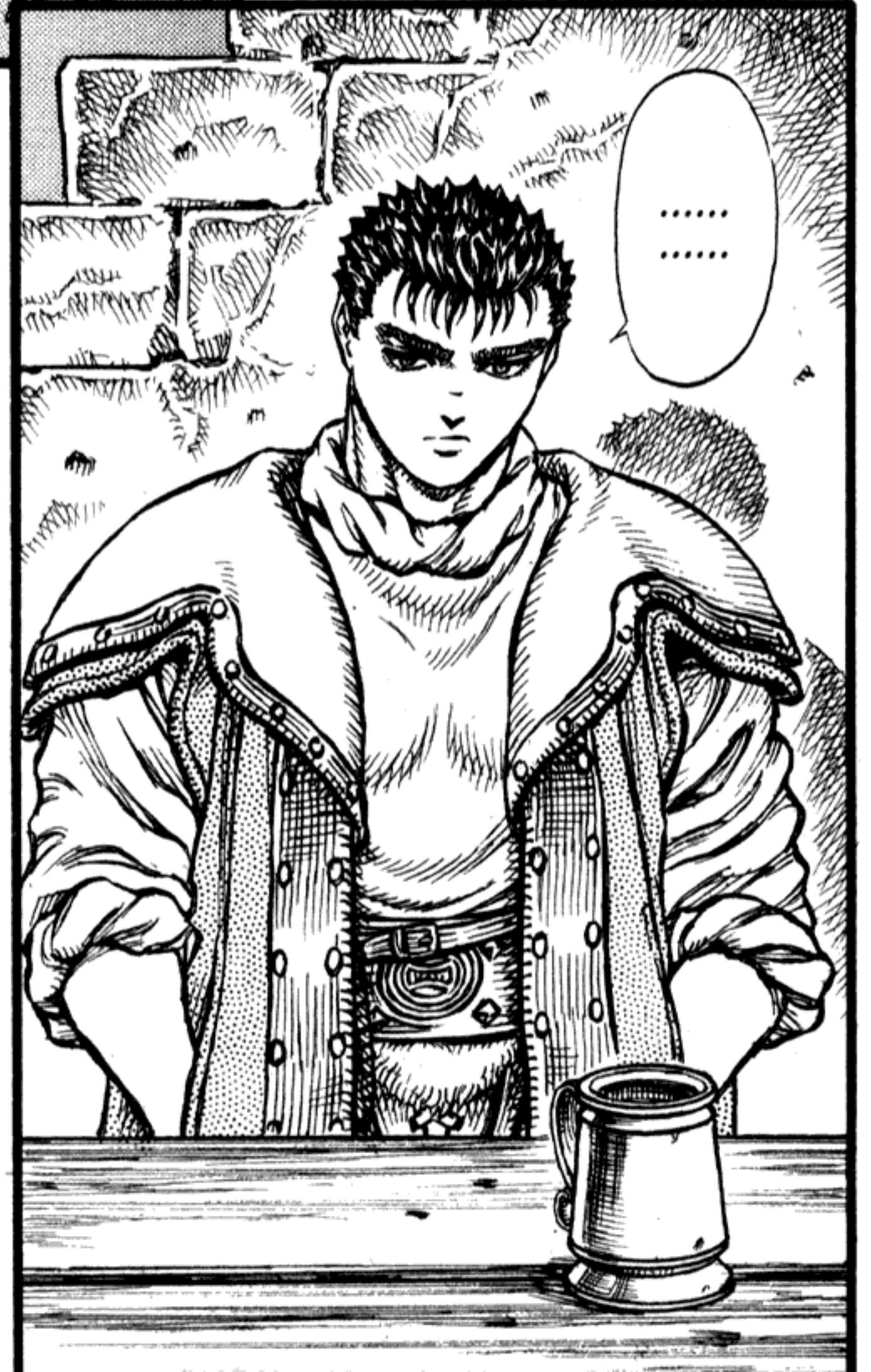
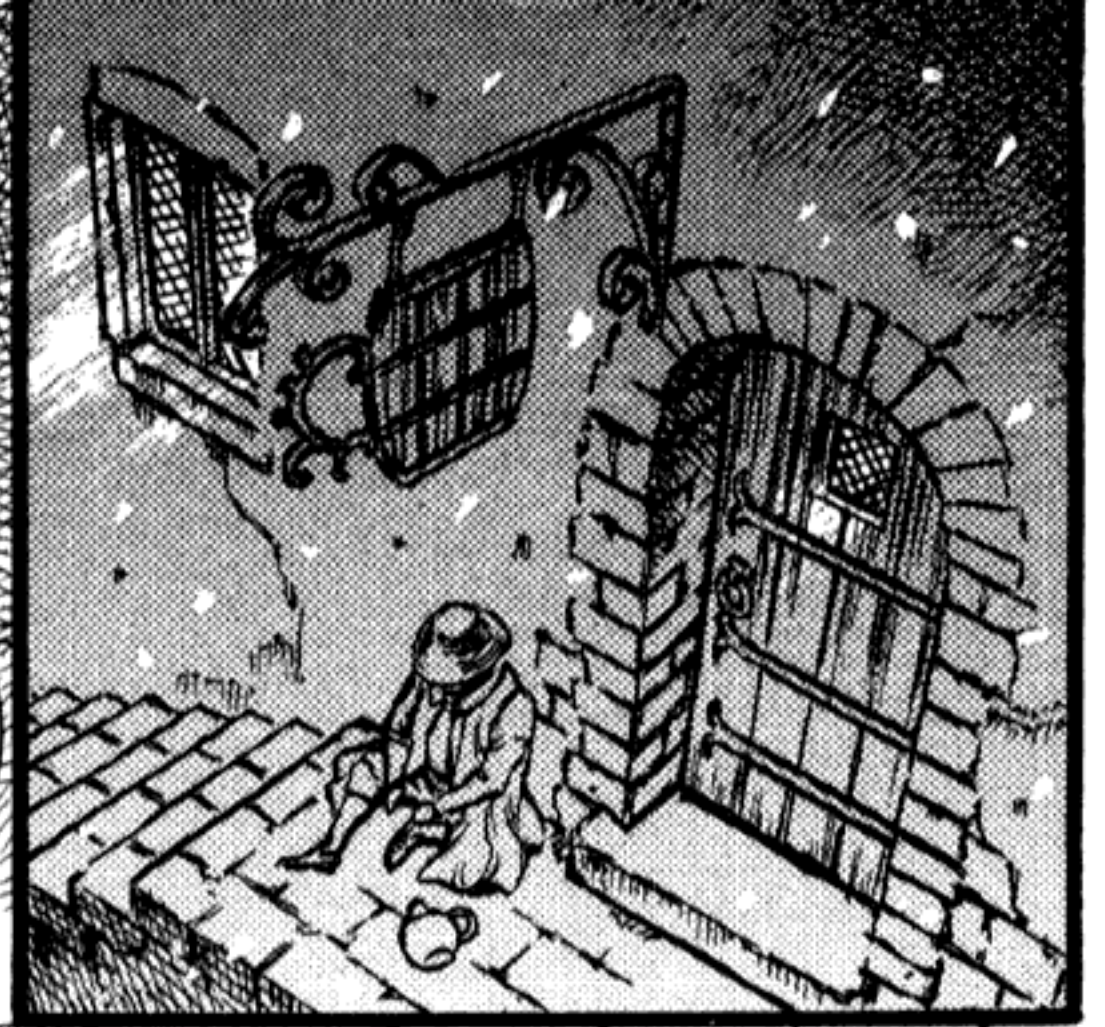


.....

ALL THE TROUBLE THE BAND OF THE HAWK HAS GONE THROUGH IS STARTING TO PAY OFF...IT ALL STARTS HERE, RIGHT?

KNOWING THAT... AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

I WAS ON BAD TERMS WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME... BUT WE'RE COMRADES WHO'VE BRAVED DEATH TOGETHER.



THEN IT'S
SMOOTH
SAILIN' LIVIN'
IN THE
COURT!!

TO TOP IT
OFF, WE'RE
GONNA BE
JOININ' THE
NOBLES
PRETTY
SOON!!

SO LONG
TO THOSE
MUSTY
BARRACKS!!
IF THINGS
GO WELL WE
COULD BE
CASTLE
LORDS!!

IF YOU WALK
DOWN THE
STREET, KIDS AND
WOMEN SWARM YOU!
AND NO WONDER!
WE'RE THE HEROES
OF THE KINGDOM!!

ANY BAR OR INN
IN TOWN! YOU
SAY YOU'RE A
HAWK COMMANDER
AT ANY SHOP
IN WINDHAM AND
IT'S A FREE RIDE!

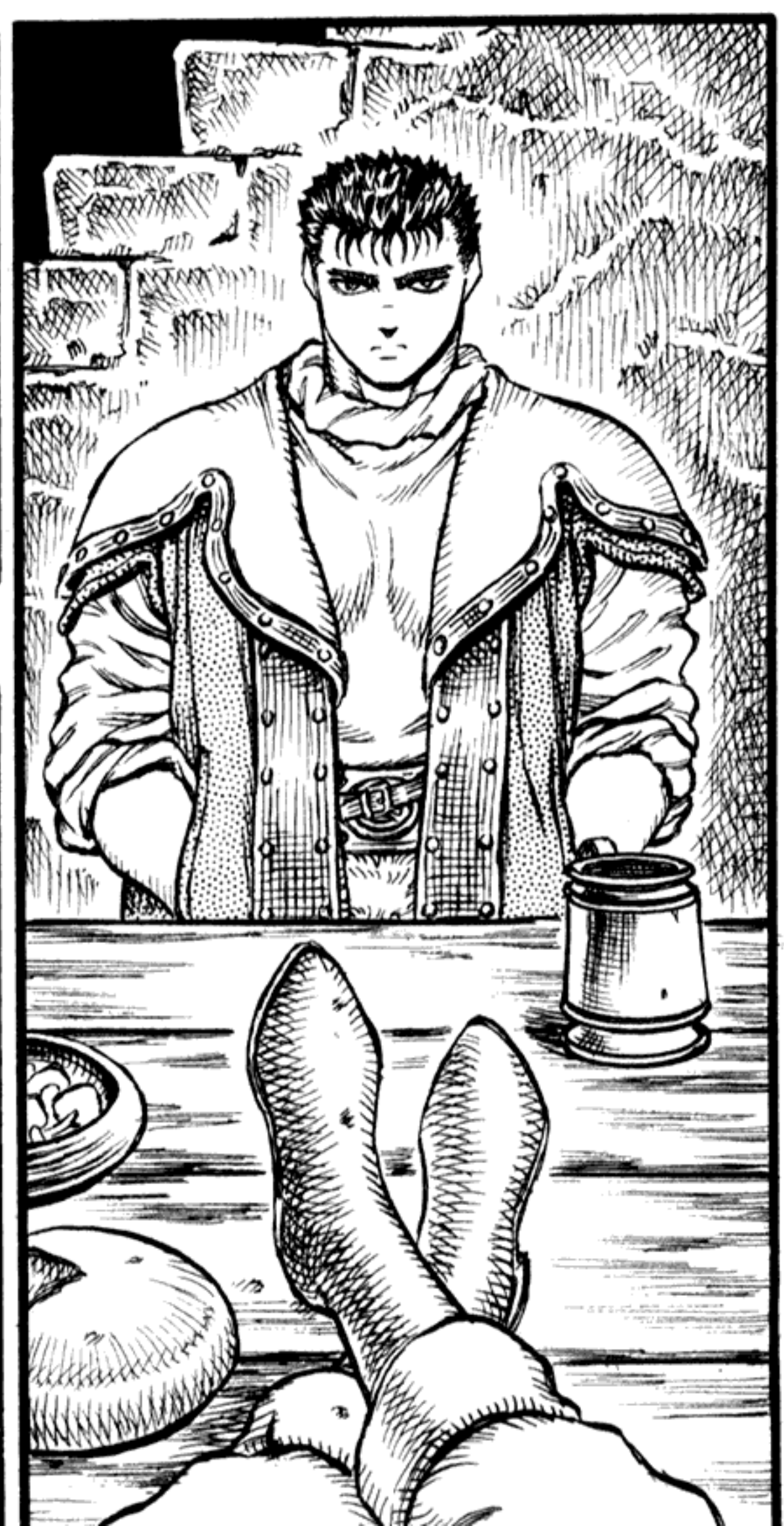
COMMONERS
LIKE US
COULDN'T
EVEN
DREAM
OF IT!

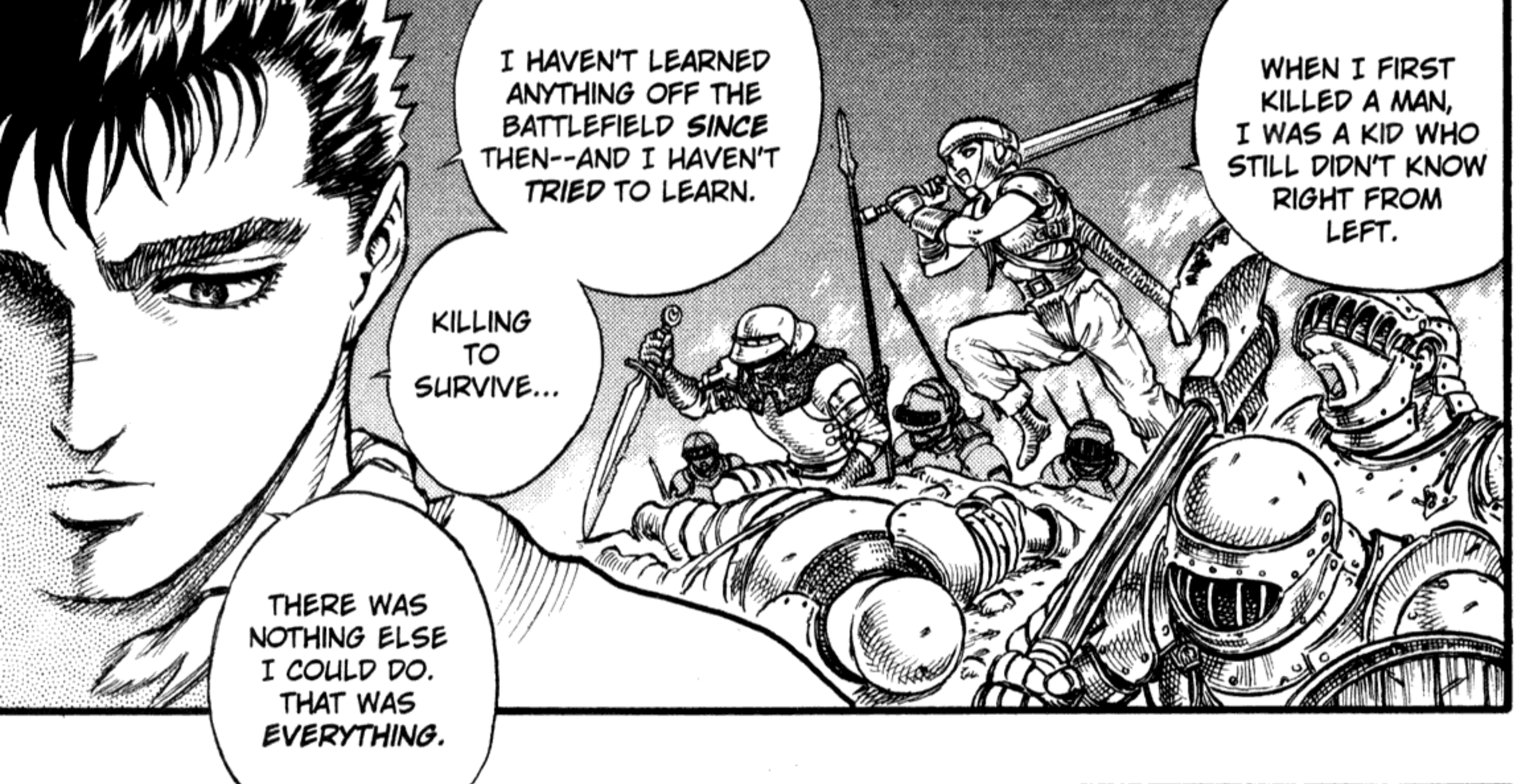
NORMALLY
WE COULD
NEVER
HAVE
GOTTEN
ANY OF
THIS!

WE
FINALLY
MADE
IT!!

I CAN'T TELL YA HOW
MANY BLOOD-STAINED
MEMORIES I HAVE OF
ENEMY SWORDS NEARLY
TAKIN' MY HEAD OFF!!
WITH ONE FOOT
PLANTED IN THE
GRAVE!!

BUT
WE
GOT
IT!!



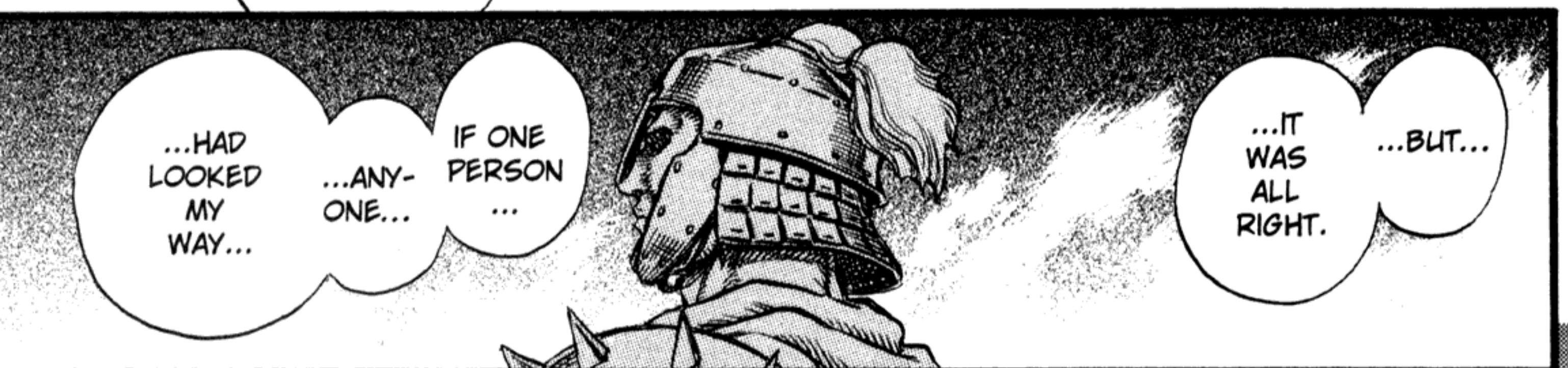


I HAVEN'T LEARNED
ANYTHING OFF THE
BATTLEFIELD SINCE
THEN--AND I HAVEN'T
TRIED TO LEARN.

WHEN I FIRST
KILLED A MAN,
I WAS A KID WHO
STILL DIDN'T KNOW
RIGHT FROM
LEFT.

KILLING
TO
SURVIVE...

THERE WAS
NOTHING ELSE
I COULD DO.
THAT WAS
EVERYTHING.



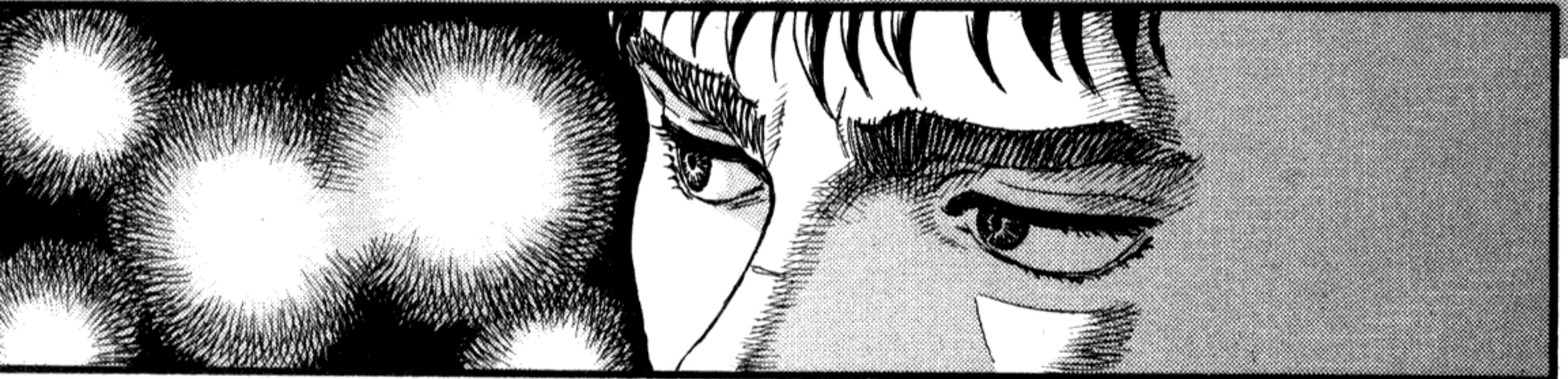
...HAD
LOOKED
MY
WAY...

...ANY-
ONE...

IF ONE
PERSON
...

...IT
WAS
ALL
RIGHT.

...BUT...



IT WAS JUST
SOMETHIN'
OF A CHILDISH
COMPLAINT.



...THAT
WOULDN'T
DO ME ANY
GOOD IN
TRYIN' TO
SURVIVE.

BUT
WANDERING THE
BATTLEFIELDS
MADE ME
REALIZE...



I FOUND
SOMEONE
I REALLY
WANTED...

INCIDENTALLY...

EVEN
SO...

...TO
HAVE
LOOK
AT
ME.



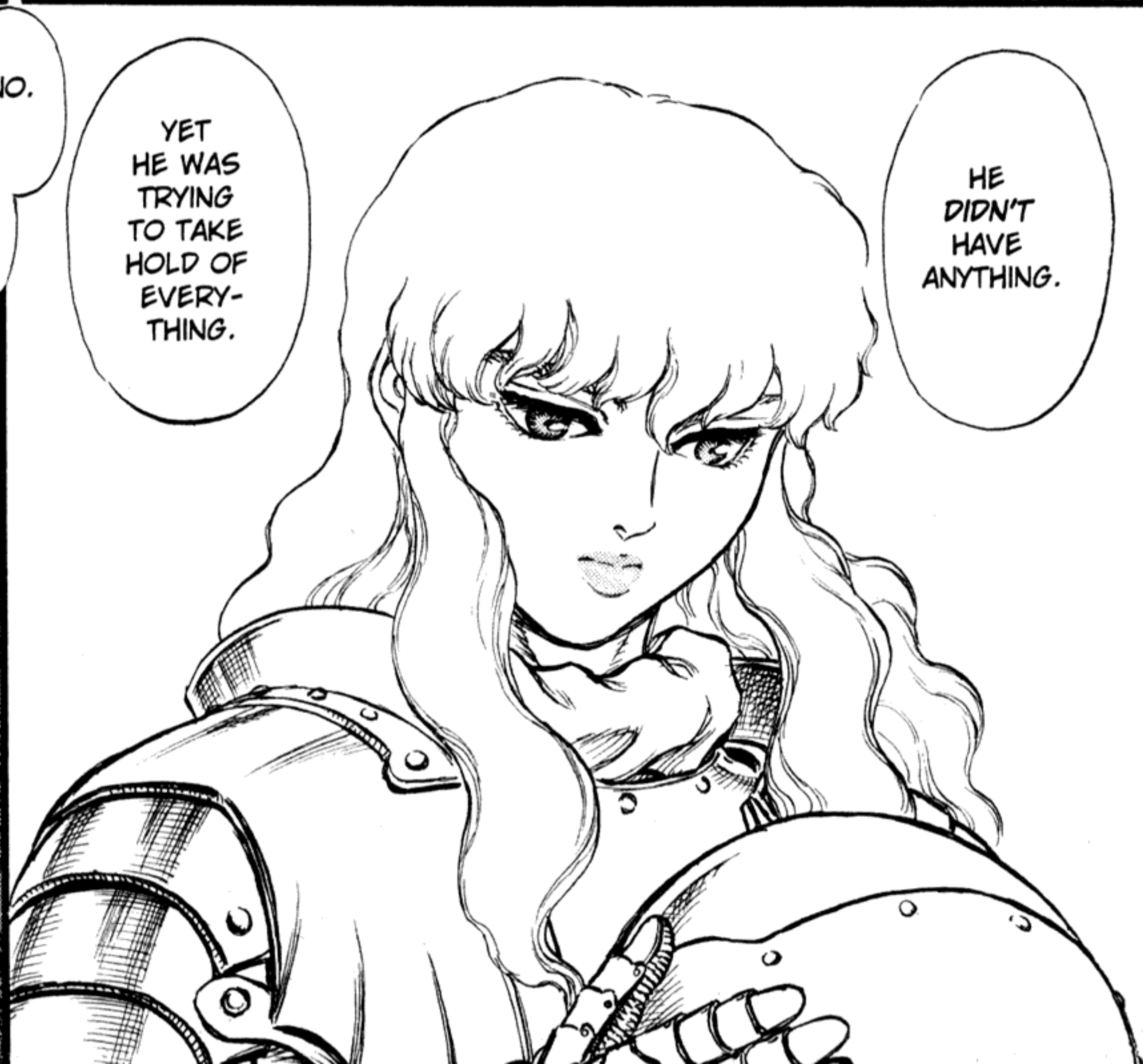
...NO.

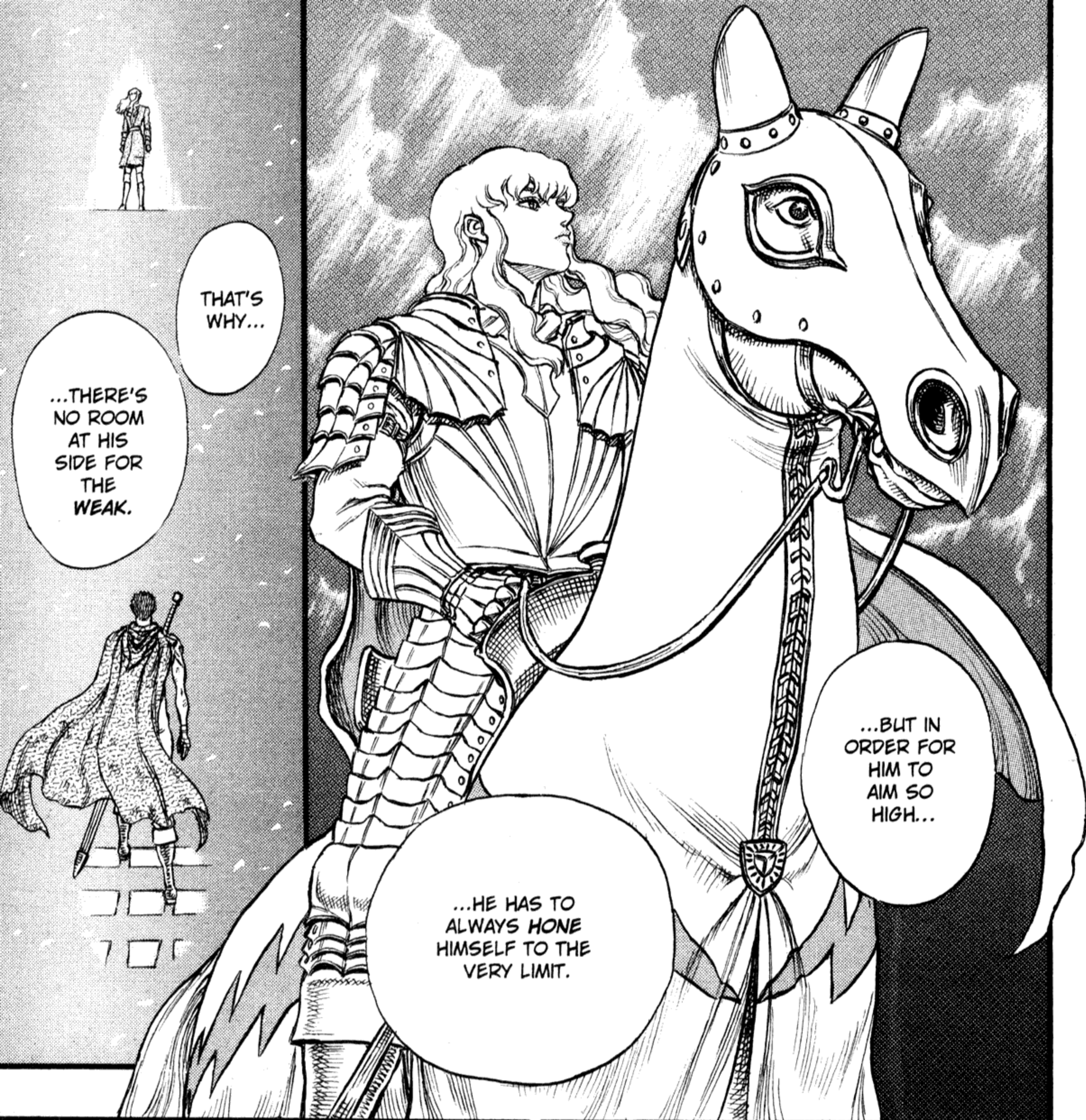
SOMETHING
ABOUT
HIM MADE
YOU...

YET
HE WAS
TRYING
TO TAKE
HOLD OF
EVERY-
THING.

HE
DIDN'T
HAVE
ANYTHING.

...THINK
IT COULD
HAPPEN.





THAT'S
WHY...

...THERE'S
NO ROOM
AT HIS
SIDE FOR
THE
WEAK.

...BUT IN
ORDER FOR
HIM TO
AIM SO
HIGH...

...HE HAS TO
ALWAYS HONE
HIMSELF TO THE
VERY LIMIT.



...FROM
INSIDE HIS
DREAM.

...LOOKING
UP AT
HIM...

AND
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH...



THE MORE
CLEAR THAT
BECOMES...

BUT
STRANGELY
...

...THE
MORE
DAZZLING
HE IS
IN MY
EYES...



ONE SNOWY NIGHT: END



HE'S...

I...

...WANT
TO
STAND
BESIDE
HIM...

...THE
ONLY ONE
I CAN'T
STAND
LOOKING
DOWN ON
ME.

...BY
ATTAINING
SOMETHING
OF MY
OWN.

アムステルダム

旅立ちの朝(1)

**THE MORNING DEPARTURE,
CHAPTER 1**



WHAT
I WANT IS
SOMETHING
ELSE...

I'M NOT
INTERESTED
IN STUFF
LIKE CLASS
OR RANK.

SOMETHING
I CAN
WIN...

...FOR
MYSELF.



THAT'S
WHY YOU
SOUND
LIKE A
BRAT!!

IF
SOMETHIN'
LIKE THAT
WERE EASY TO
FIND, NO
ONE'D EVER
HAVE TO
SUFFER!!

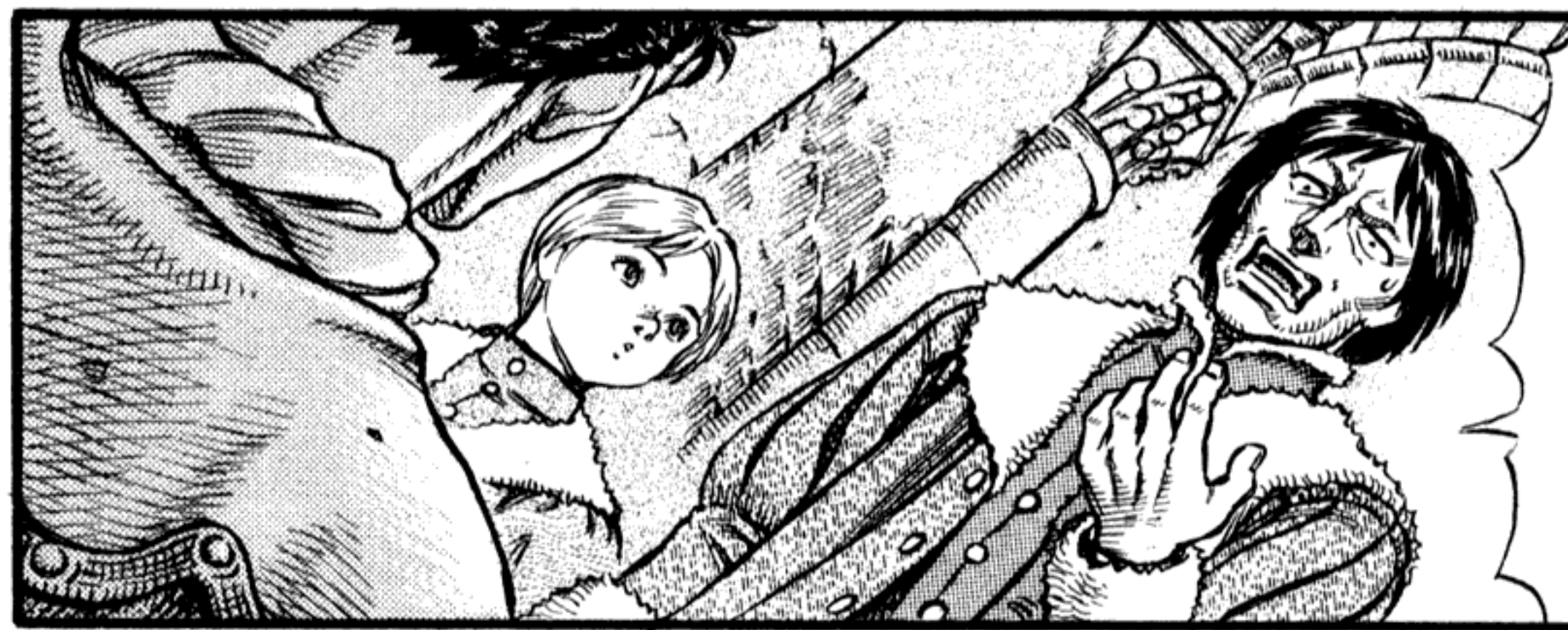
SOME-
THING
YOU CAN
WIN FOR
YOUR-
SELF?!

HAH!

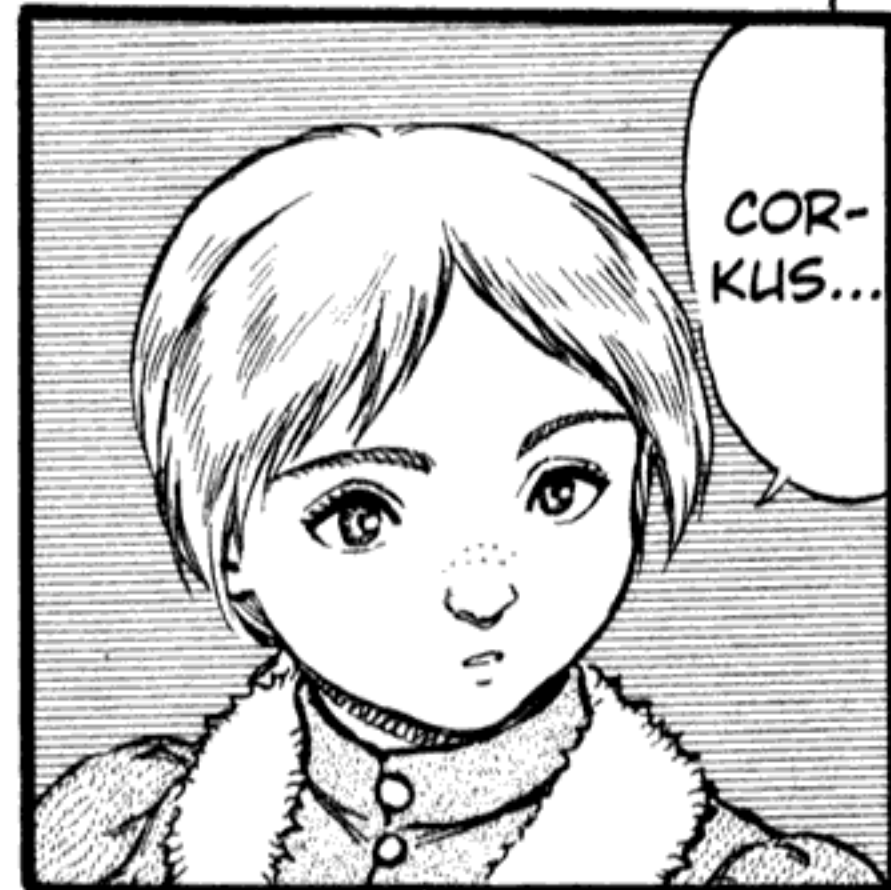


NORMAL PEOPLE USE THEIR OWN STRENGTH AND TALENTS TO COME TO TERMS WITH THEIR REAL LIVES AND MAKE DO THE BEST THEY CAN!!

EVEN IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND IT, ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE GET TO BE WINNERS!!



THERE'S PLENTY OUT THERE WHO SAY ALL YOU NEED IS A DREAM!! IT MAKES ME SICK TO LOOK AT ASSHOLES LIKE THAT!!



COR-KUS...

AN UNREALIZED DREAM'S JUST A LOAD OF CRAP! STRAIGHT OUTTA THE HORSE'S ASS!

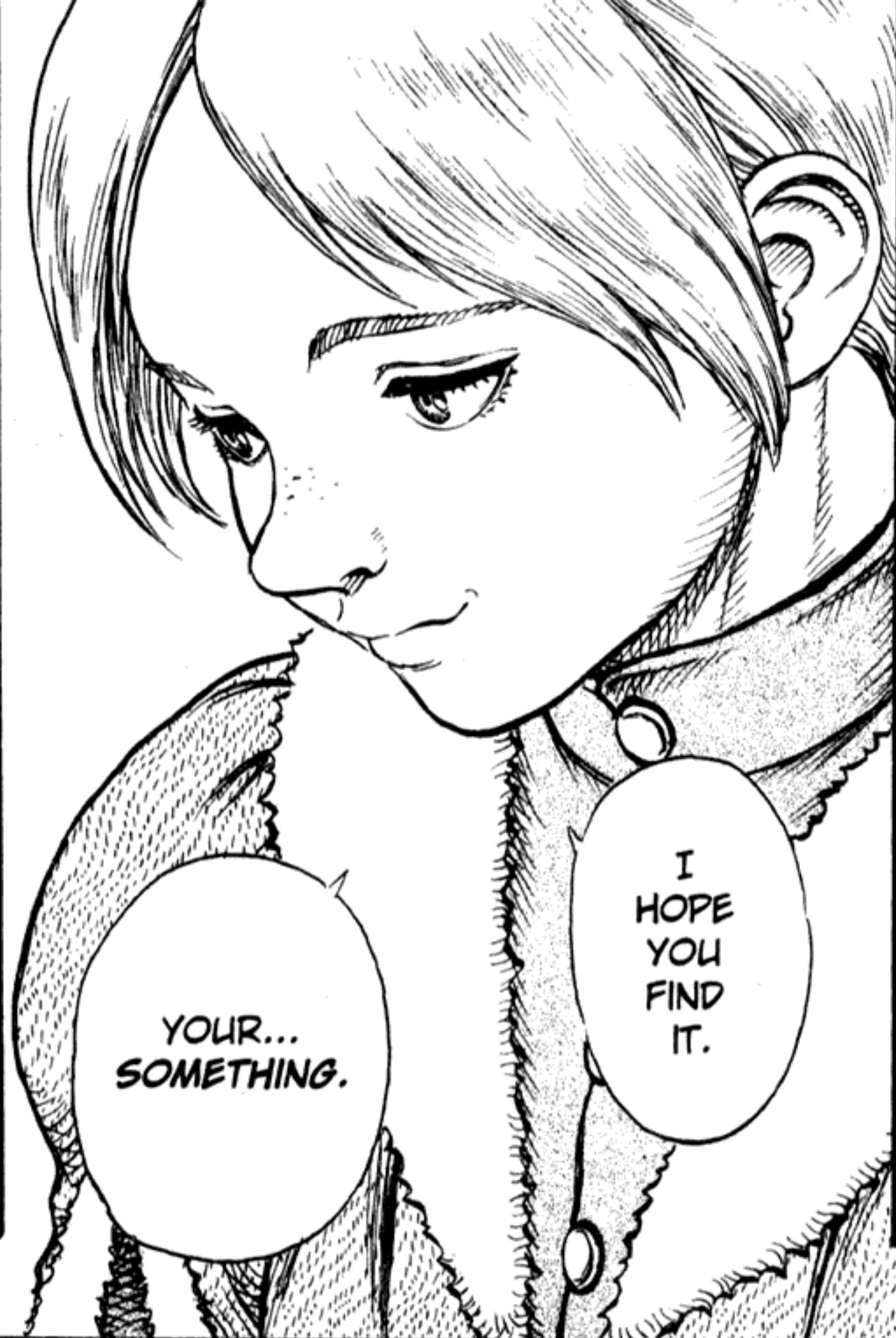
ALL YOU NEED'S A DREAM, HUH? THAT'S SOMETHING WEAKLINGS WHO CAN'T FACE THE TRUTH SAY!



YOU MEAN ...

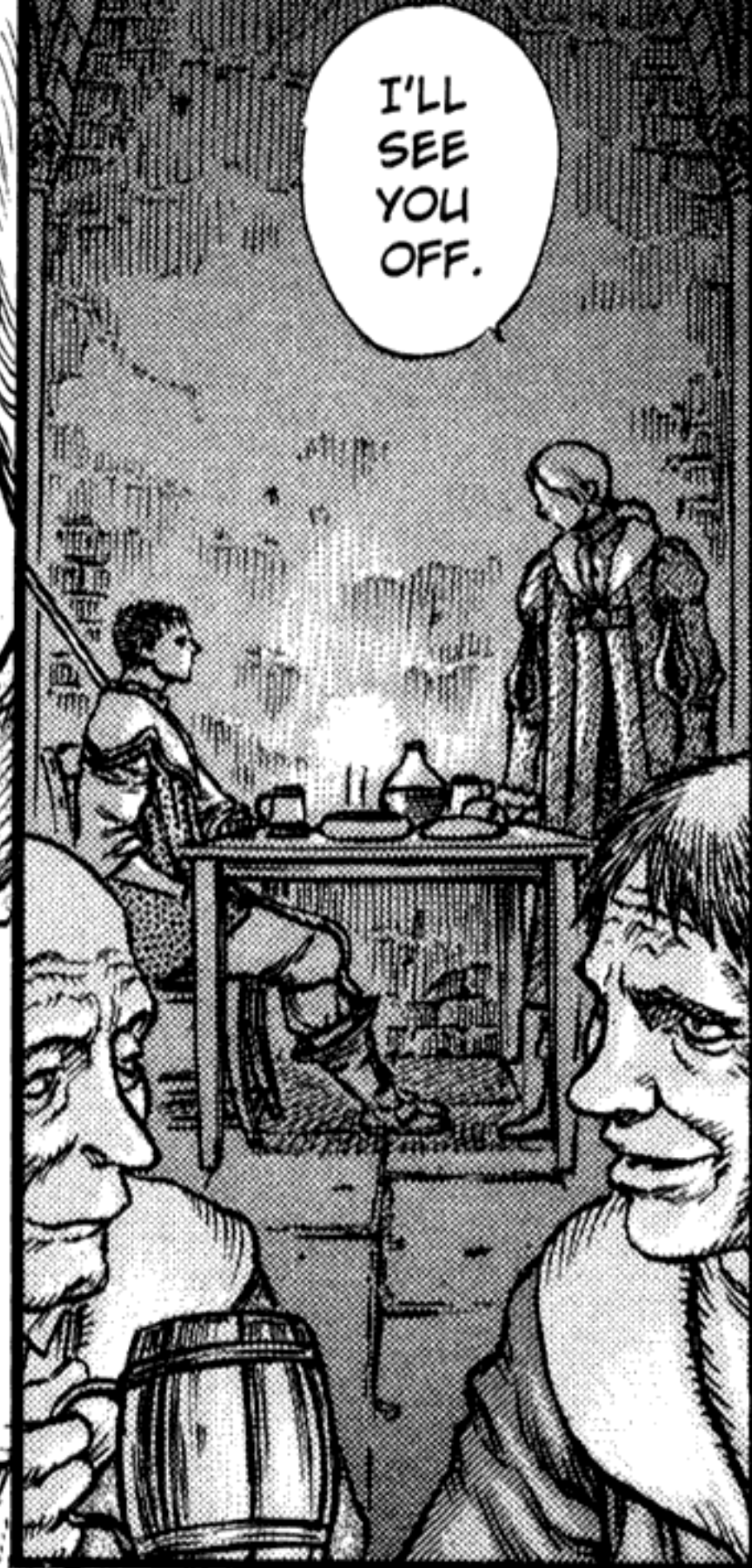
...





YOUR...
SOMETHING.

I
HOPE
YOU
FIND
IT.



I'LL
SEE
YOU
OFF.



EH?

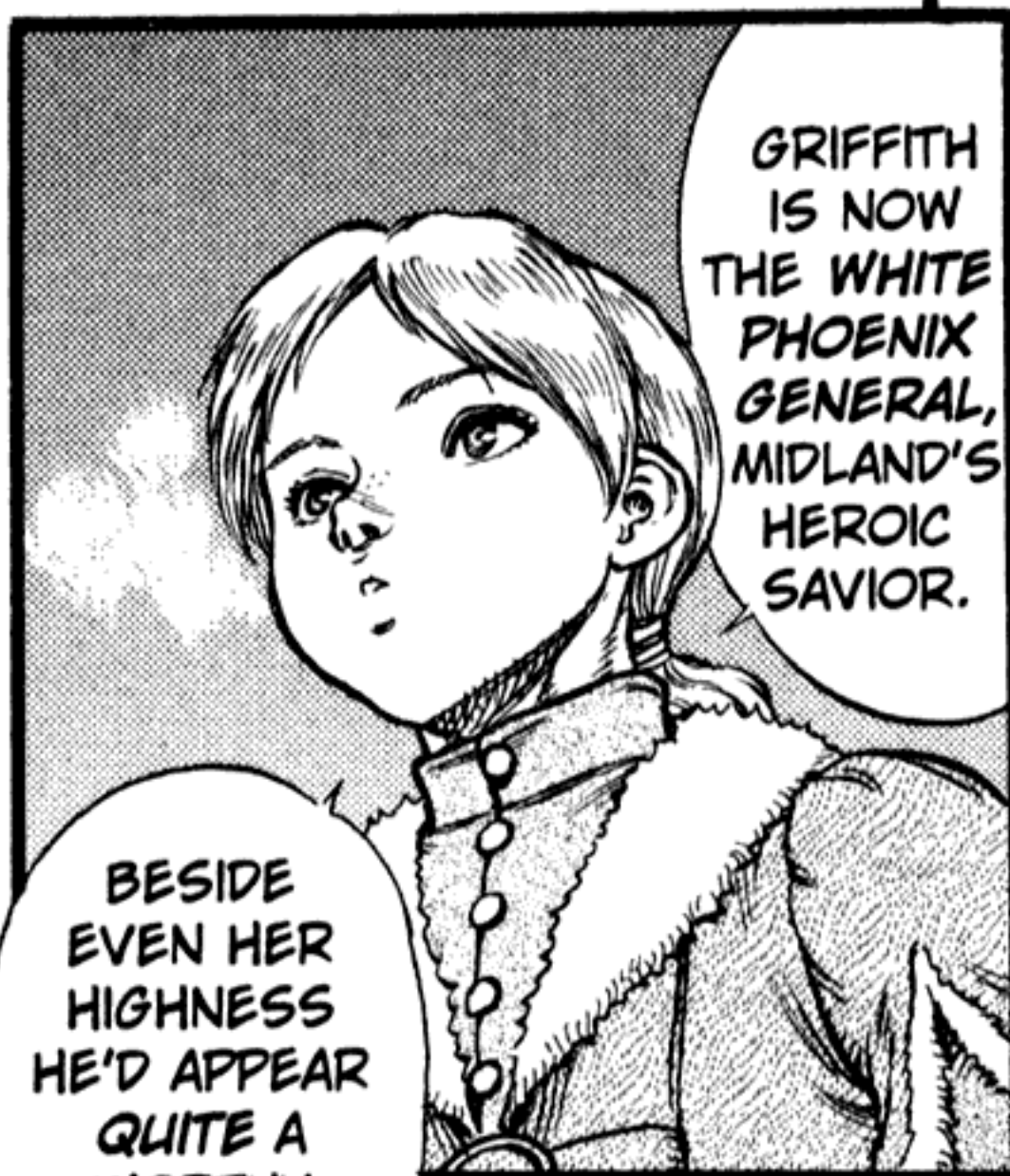
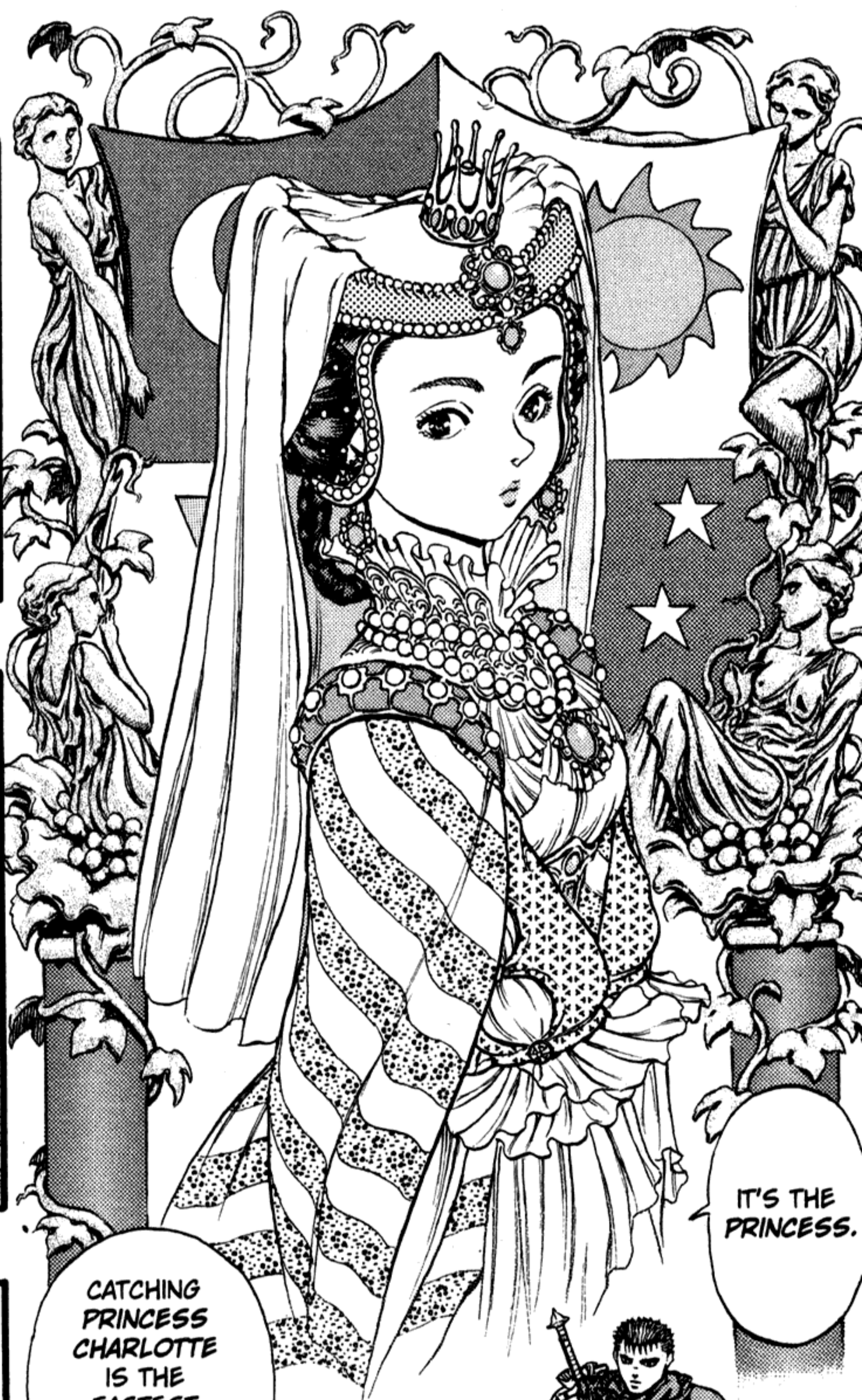
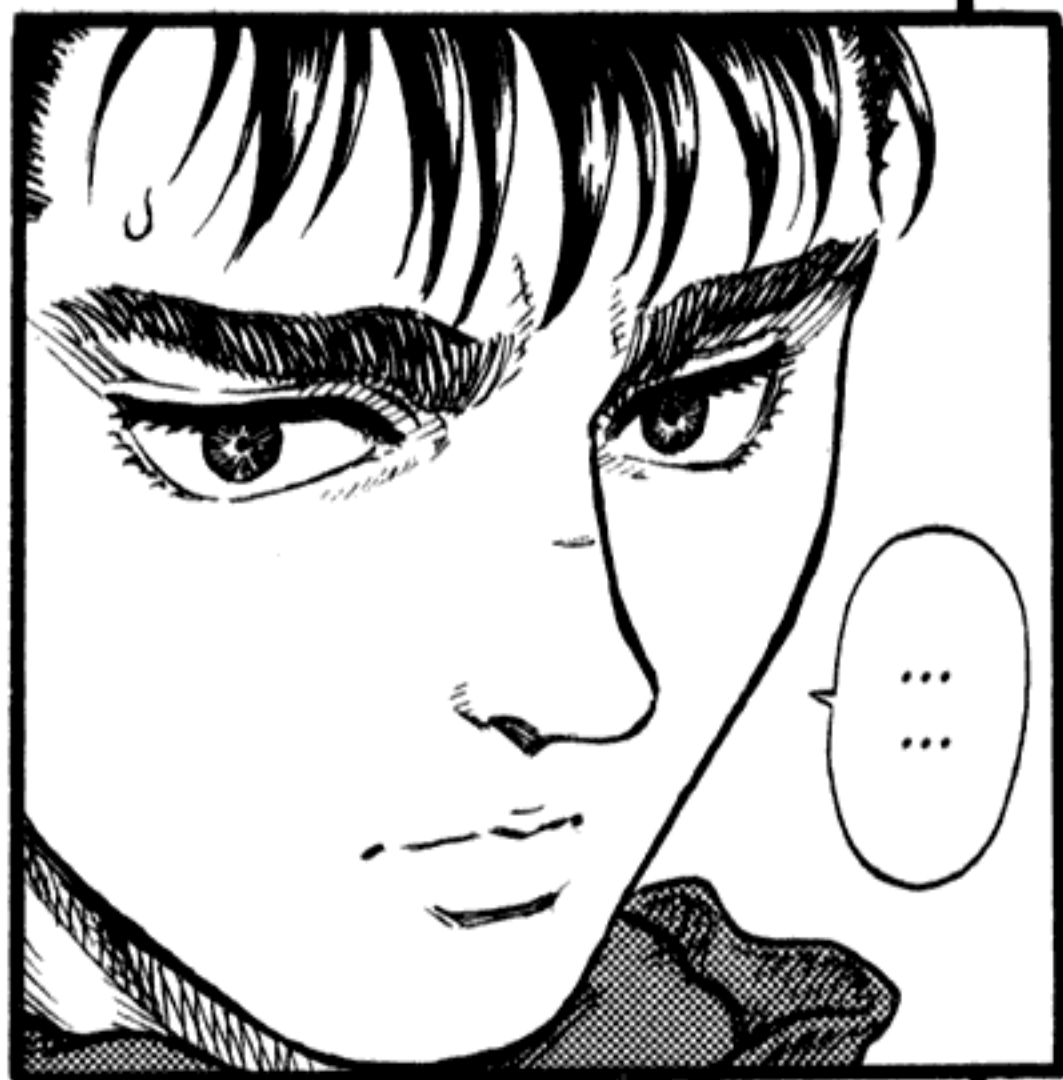
HEY,
I DO
WANNA
ASK YOU
ONE
THING.



WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

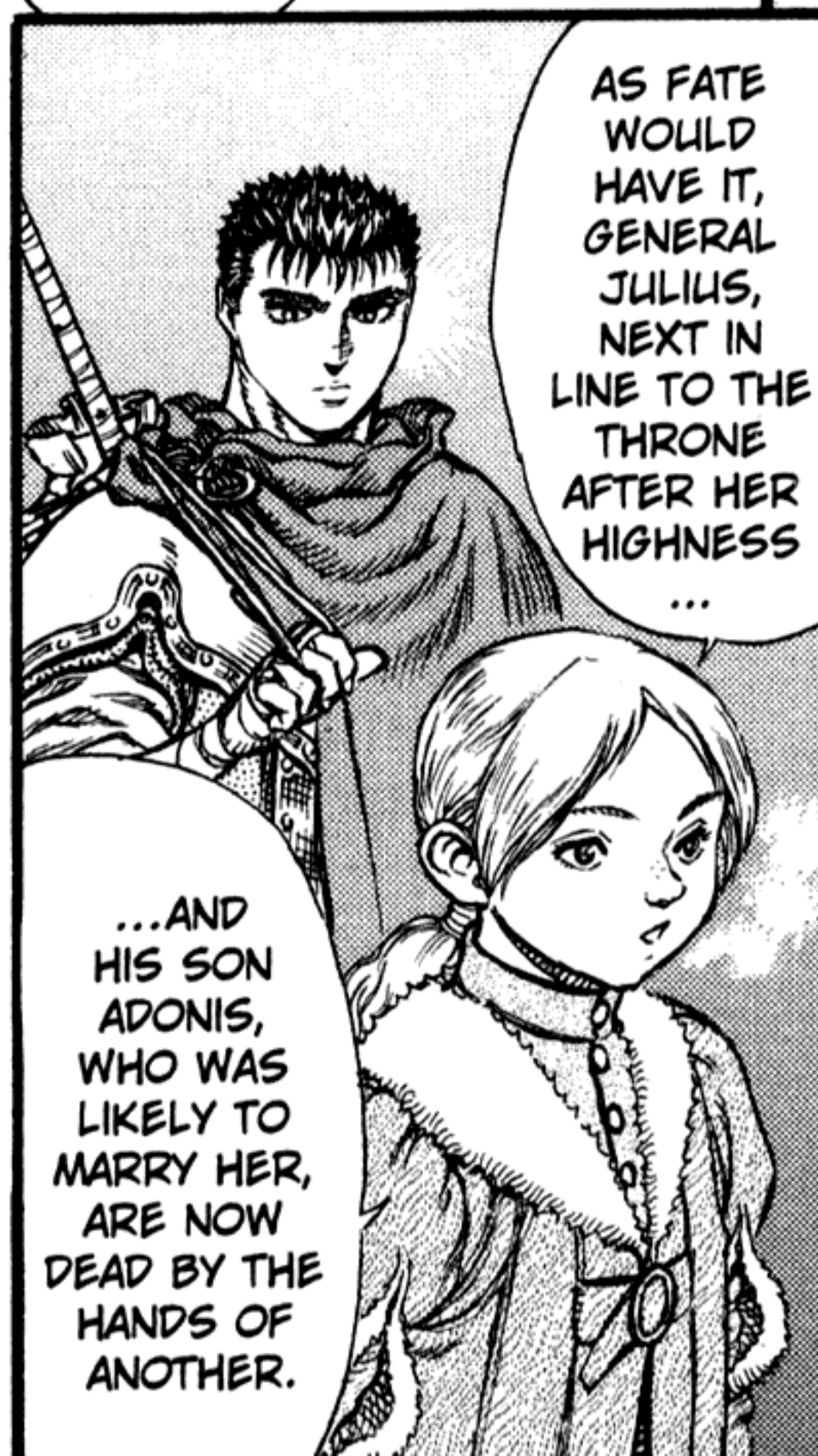
WHAT'S
UP WITH
YOU AND
CASCA?





GRIFFITH IS NOW THE WHITE PHOENIX GENERAL, MIDLAND'S HEROIC SAVIOR.

BESIDE EVEN HER HIGHNESS HE'D APPEAR QUITE A WORTHY COMPANION.

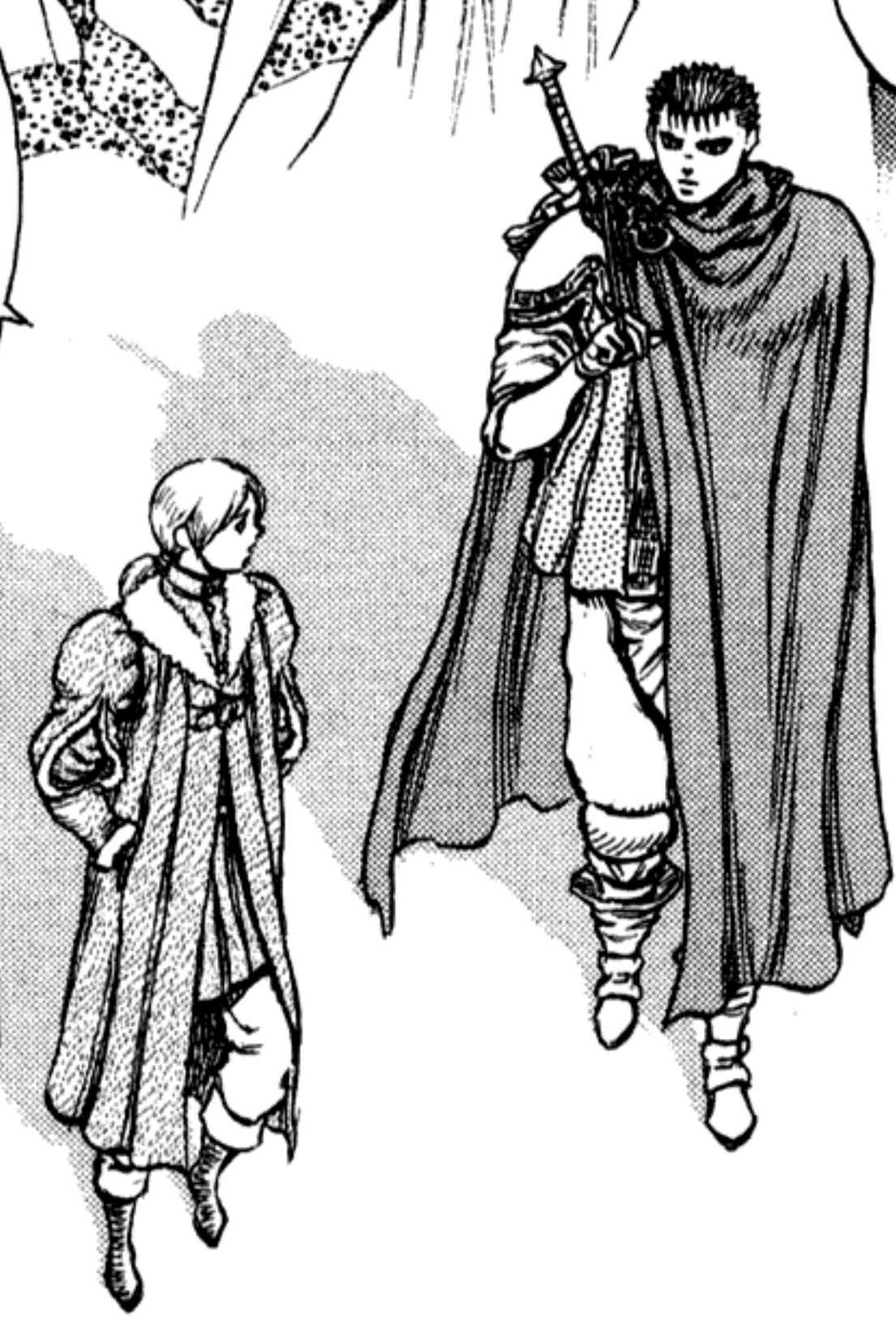


AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, GENERAL JULIUS, NEXT IN LINE TO THE THRONE AFTER HER HIGHNESS ...

...AND HIS SON ADONIS, WHO WAS LIKELY TO MARRY HER, ARE NOW DEAD BY THE HANDS OF ANOTHER.

CATCHING PRINCESS CHARLOTTE IS THE FASTEST SHORTCUT TO GRIFFITH'S AMBITION.

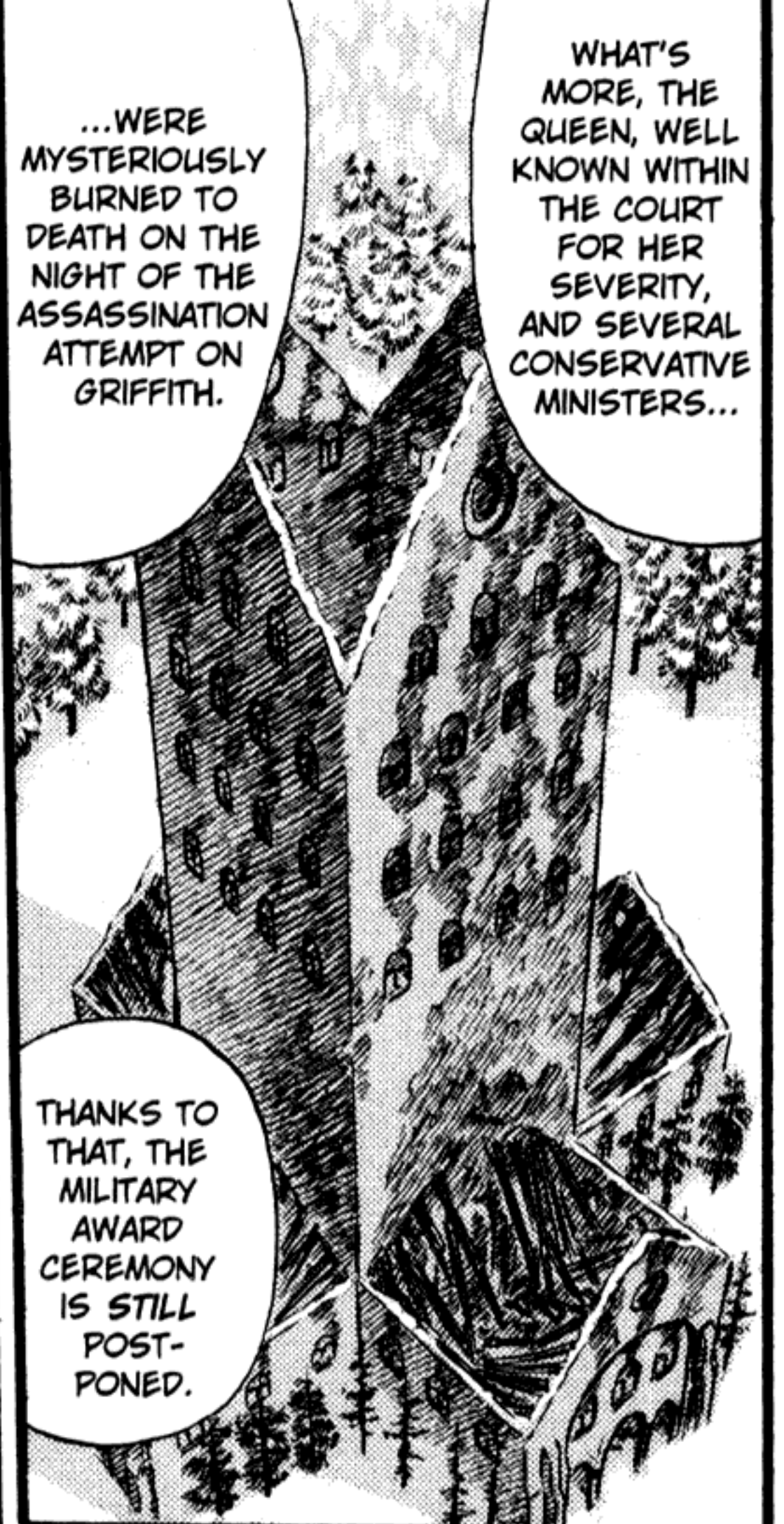
IT'S ALSO THE ONLY WAY.



IT'S THE PRINCESS.

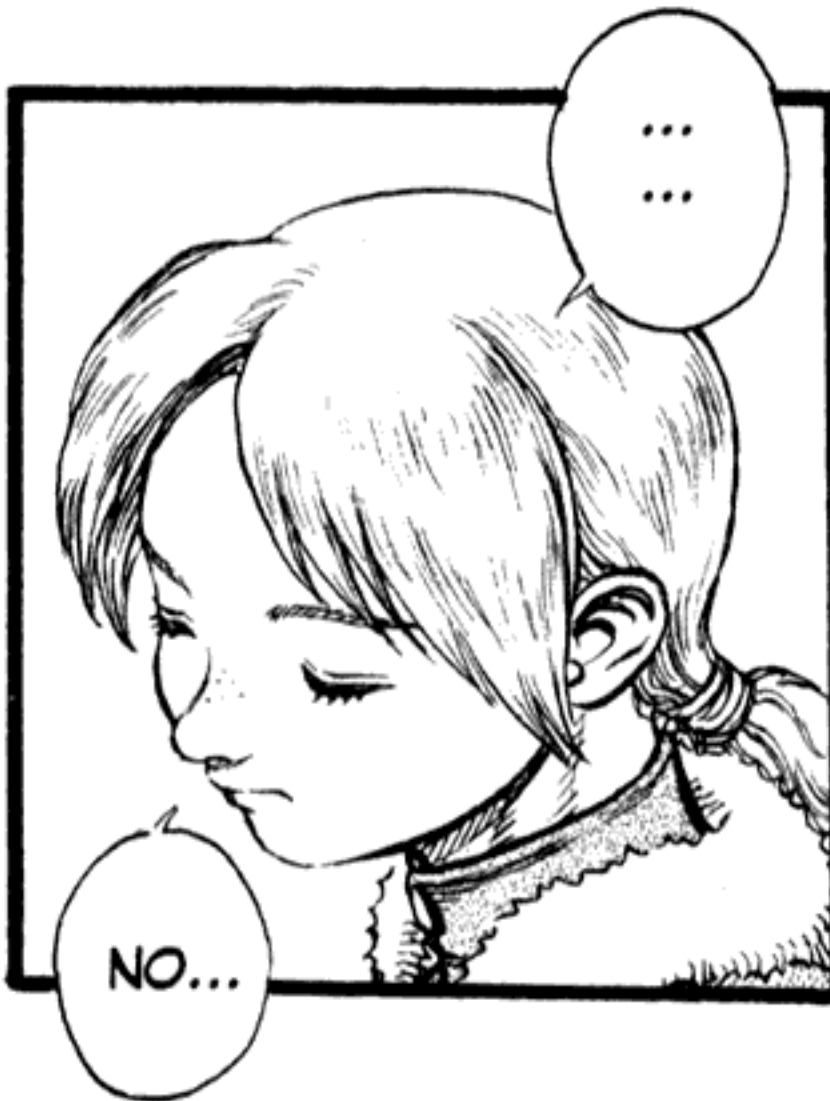


GUTS,
YOU...



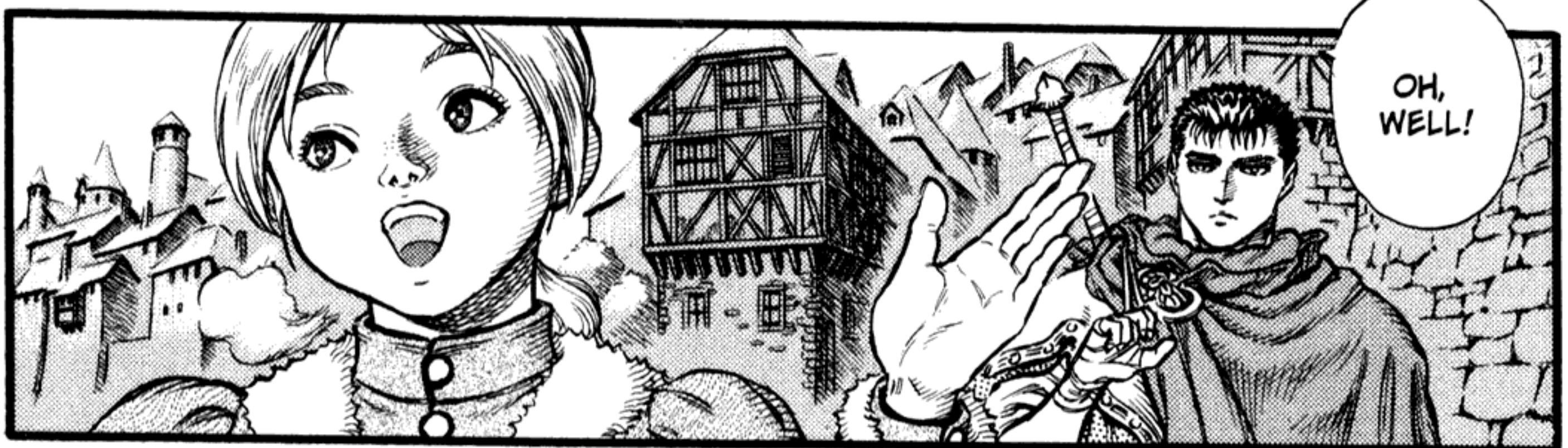
...WERE
MYSTERIOUSLY
BURNED TO
DEATH ON THE
NIGHT OF THE
ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT ON
GRIFFITH.

WHAT'S
MORE, THE
QUEEN, WELL
KNOWN WITHIN
THE COURT
FOR HER
SEVERITY,
AND SEVERAL
CONSERVATIVE
MINISTERS...



NO...

...

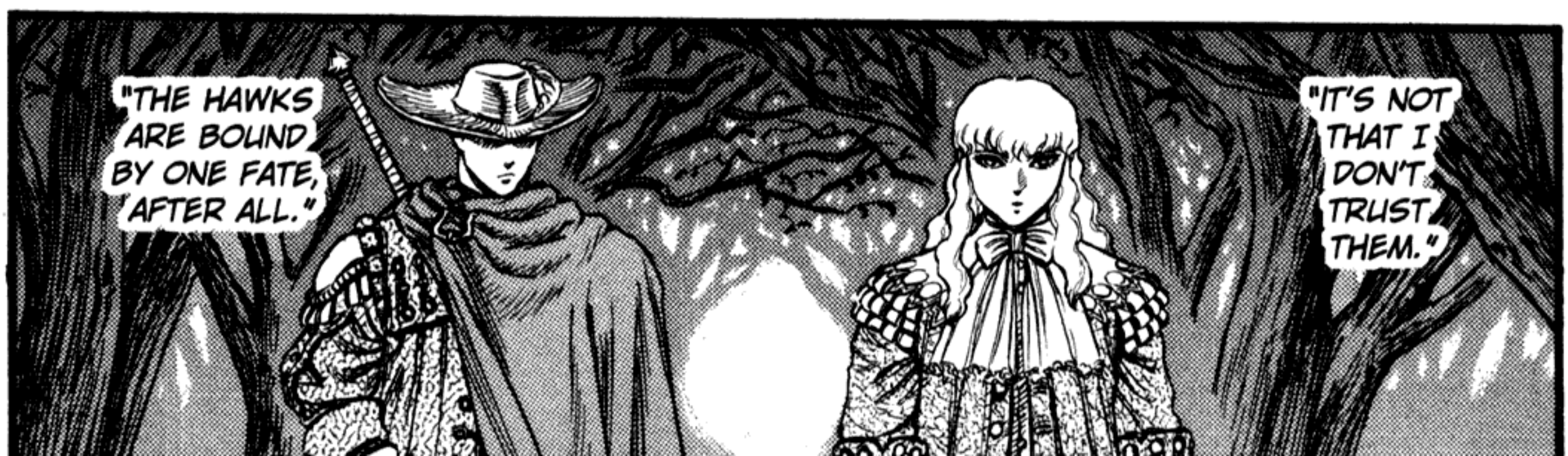


OH,
WELL!



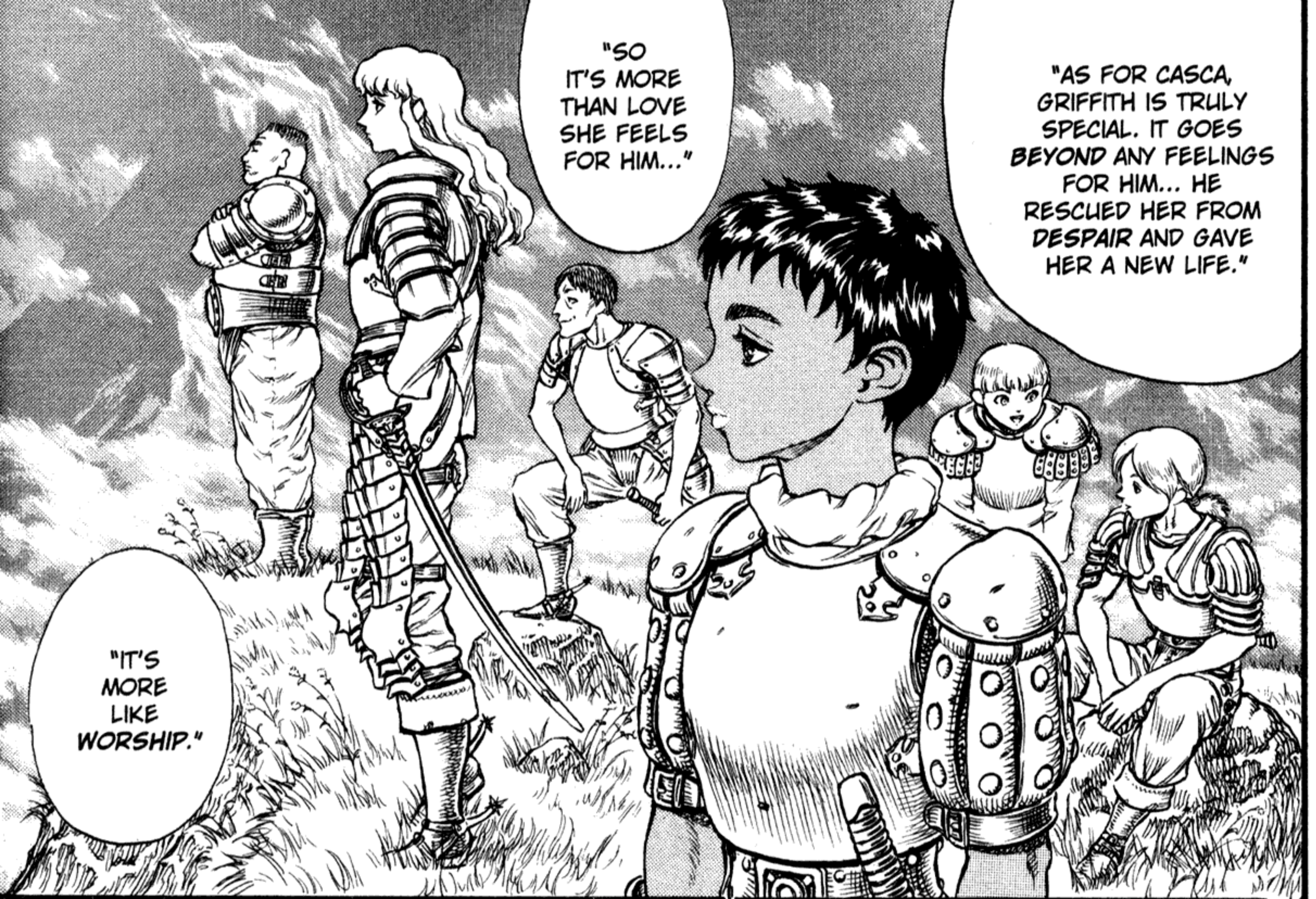
"DON'T
TELL THE
OTHERS
ABOUT
THIS."

"GUTS..."



"THE HAWKS
ARE BOUND
BY ONE FATE,
AFTER ALL."

"IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T
TRUST
THEM."



"SO
IT'S MORE
THAN LOVE
SHE FEELS
FOR HIM..."

"AS FOR CASCA,
GRIFFITH IS TRULY
SPECIAL. IT GOES
BEYOND ANY FEELINGS
FOR HIM... HE
RESCUED HER FROM
DESPAIR AND GAVE
HER A NEW LIFE."

"IT'S
MORE
LIKE
WORSHIP."



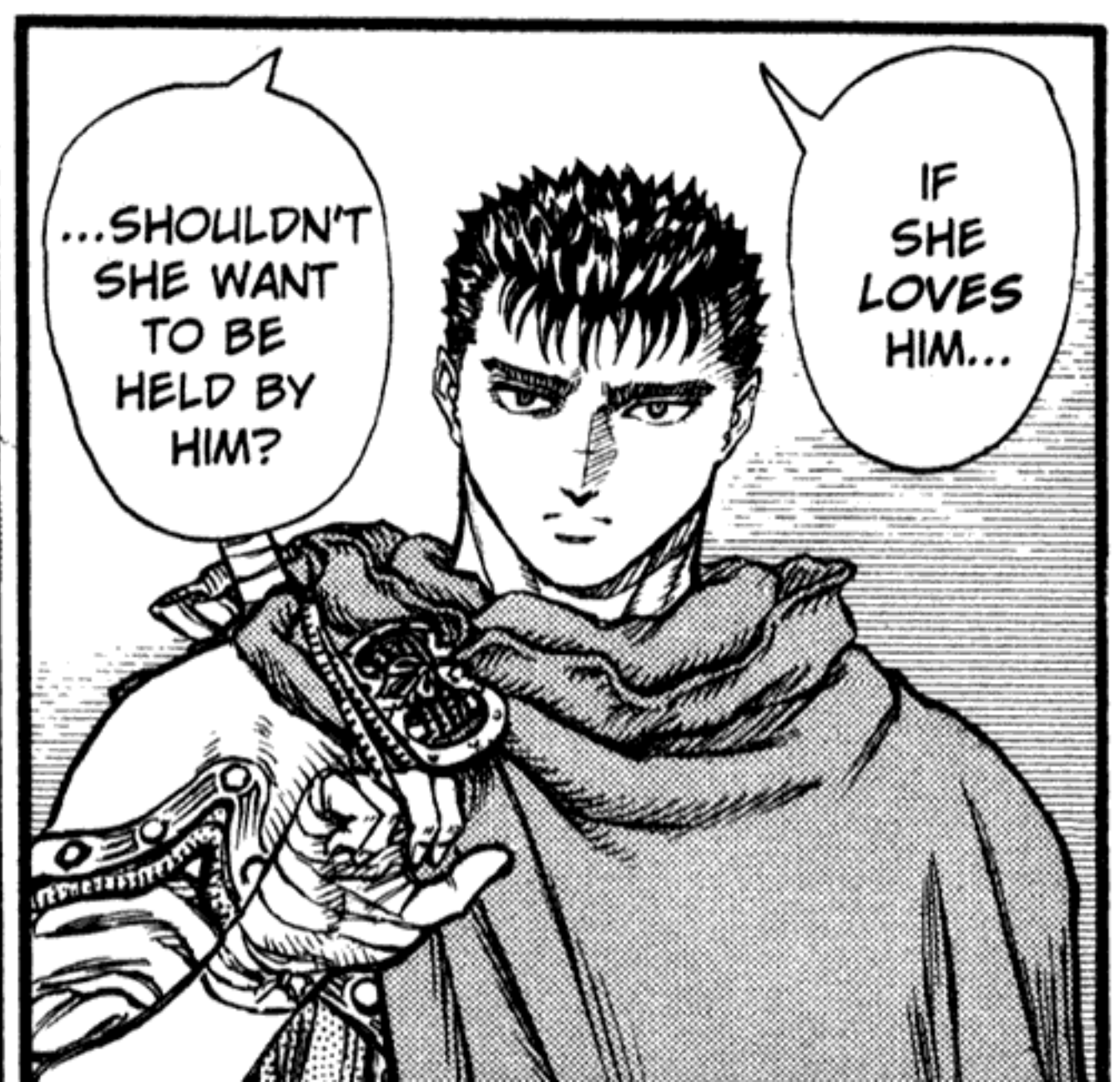
"THAT WOMAN
CAN GRANT
HIM THE THING
HE MOST
DESIRES,
THE ONE
THING CASCA
HERSELF
DEFINITELY
CAN'T OFFER
HIM."

"MOREOVER,
BESIDE HIM IS
THE WOMAN HE
CAN'T AFFORD
TO REFUSE IN
FULFILLING
HIS DREAM."



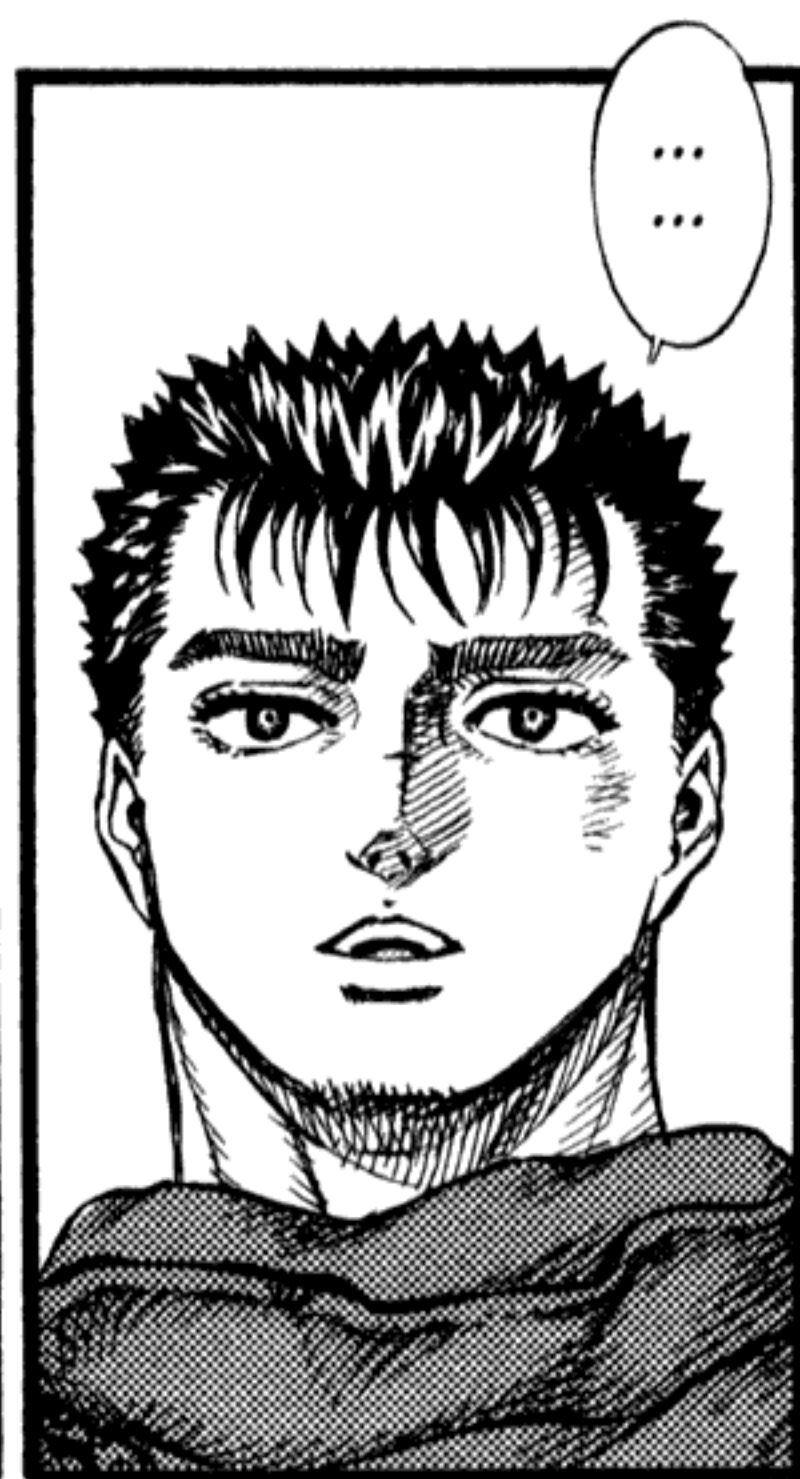
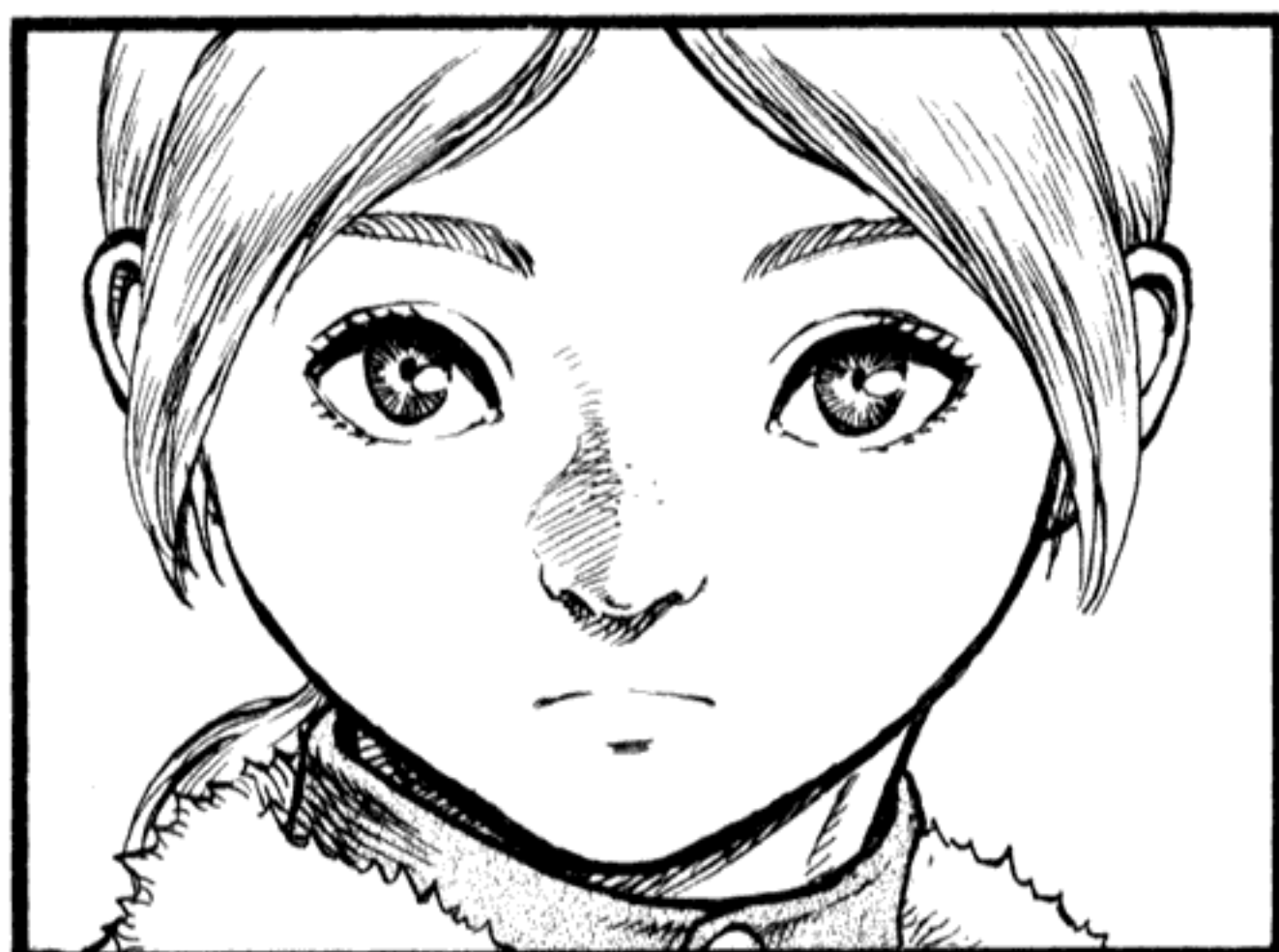
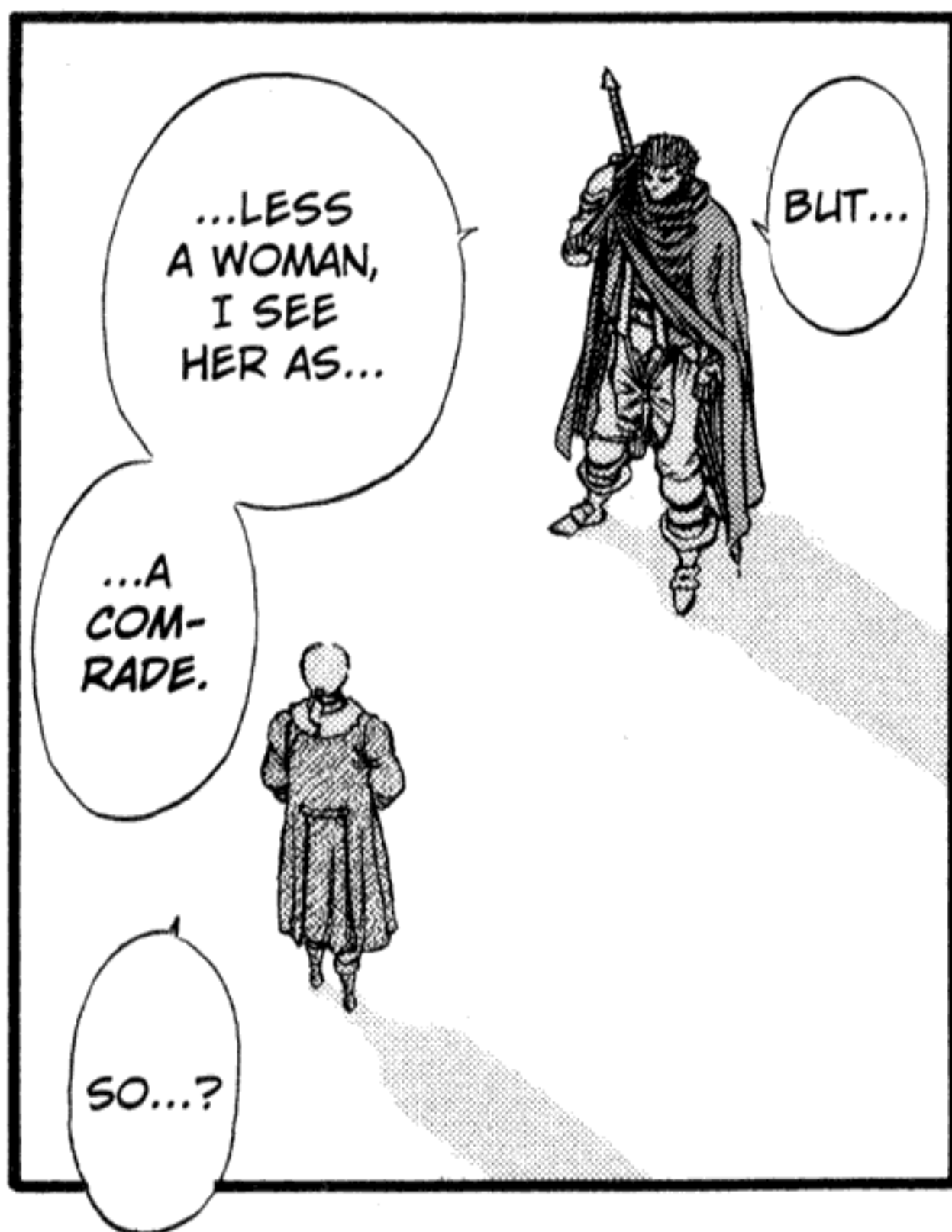
...BEING
A
WOMAN
LONGING
FOR A
MAN
SHE
CAN'T
EVER
HAVE?

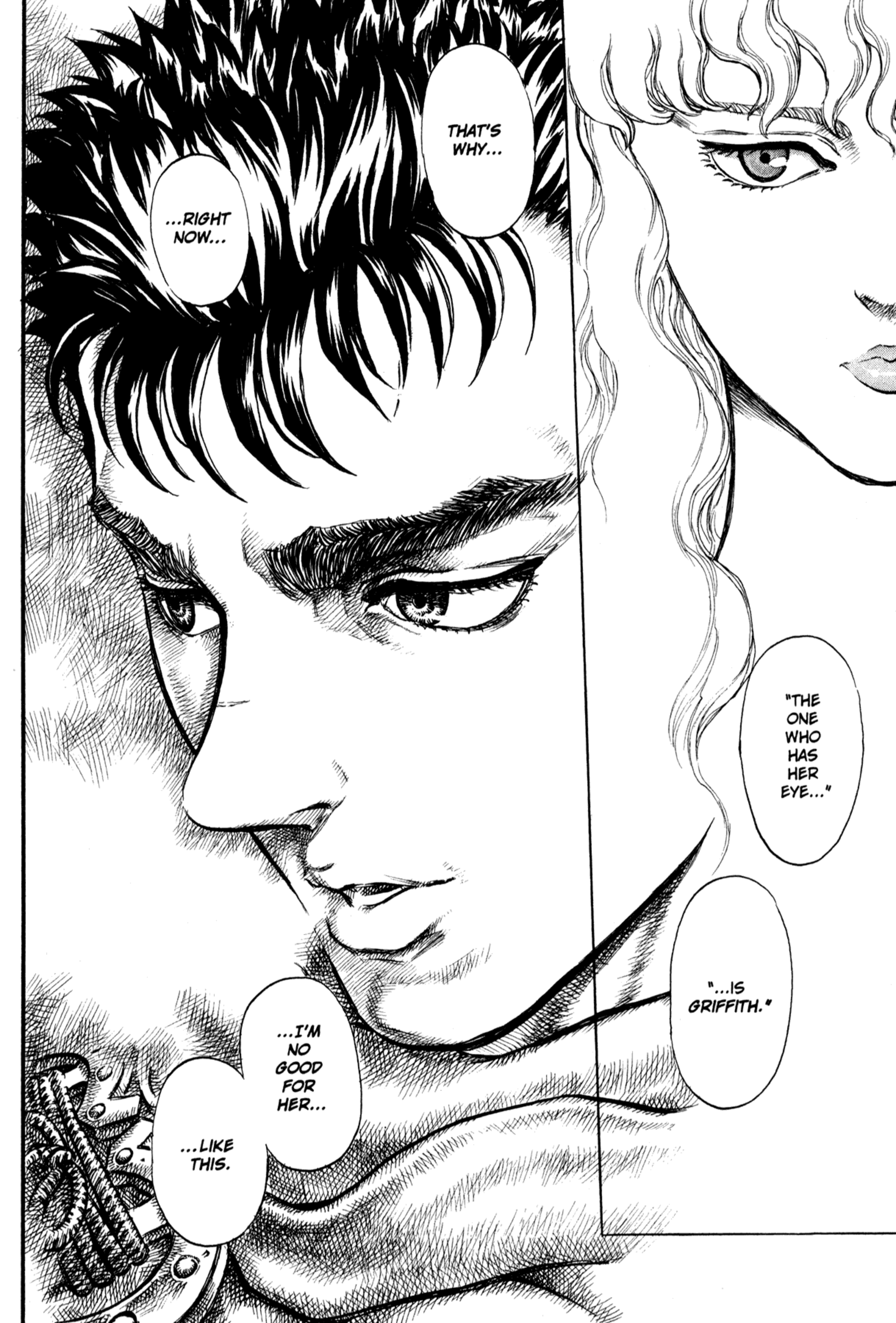
YET
DESPITE
ALL HER
EFFORTS,
CAN SHE
FIND
HAPPY-
NESS...



...SHOULDN'T
SHE WANT
TO BE
HELD BY
HIM?

IF
SHE
LOVES
HIM...





...RIGHT
NOW...

THAT'S
WHY...

"THE
ONE
WHO
HAS
HER
EYE..."

"...IS
GRIFFITH."

...I'M
NO
GOOD
FOR
HER...

...LIKE
THIS.



HOW
COULD
YOU,
GUTS?!

LEAVING
WITHOUT
SAYING
ANY-
THING!!



YOU
GUYS
...



DON'T YOU
LIKE...
THE BAND
OF THE
HAWK?!

WHY?!

RICKERT
...

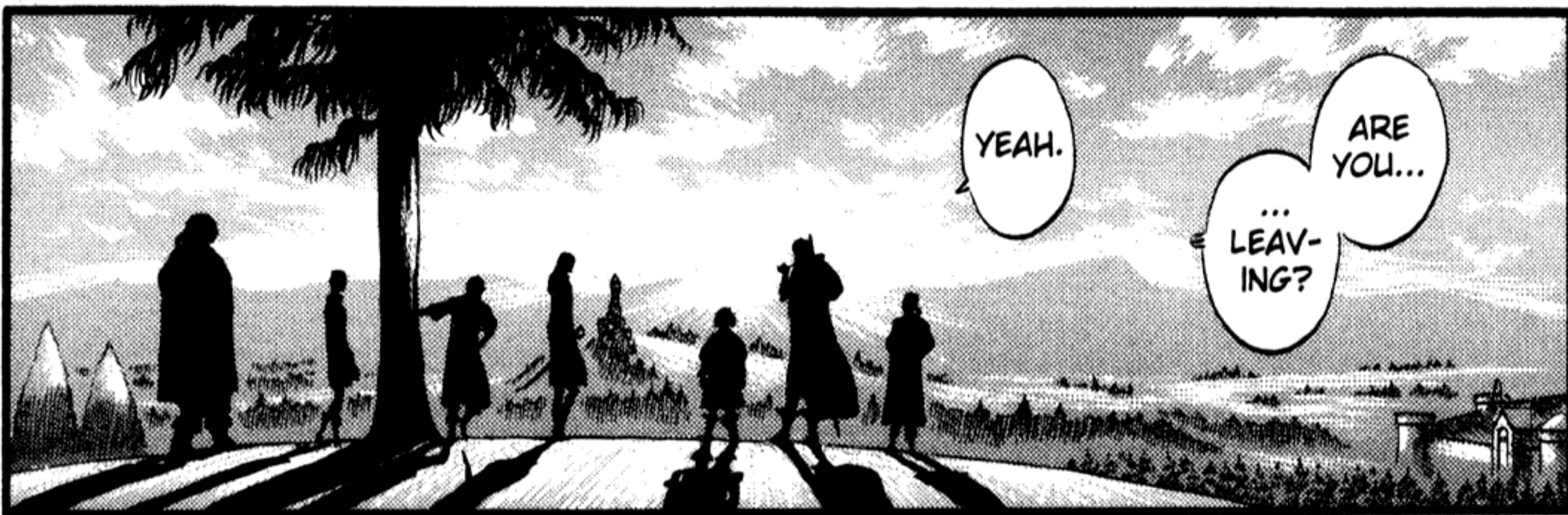
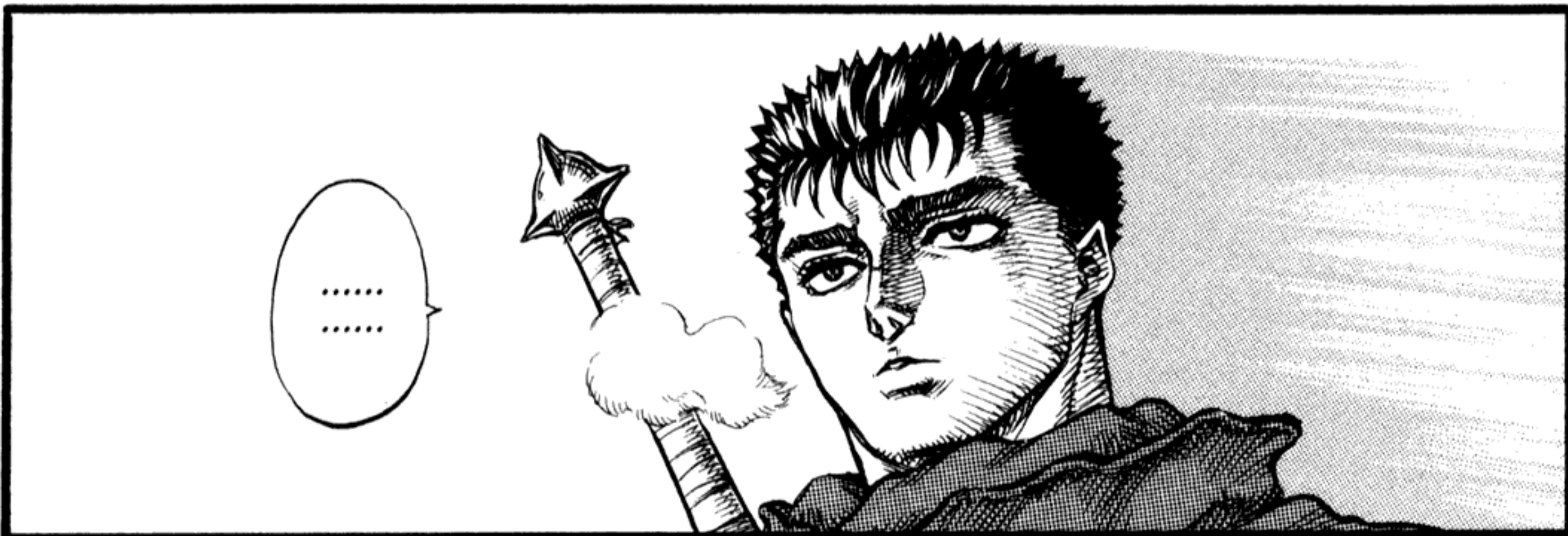
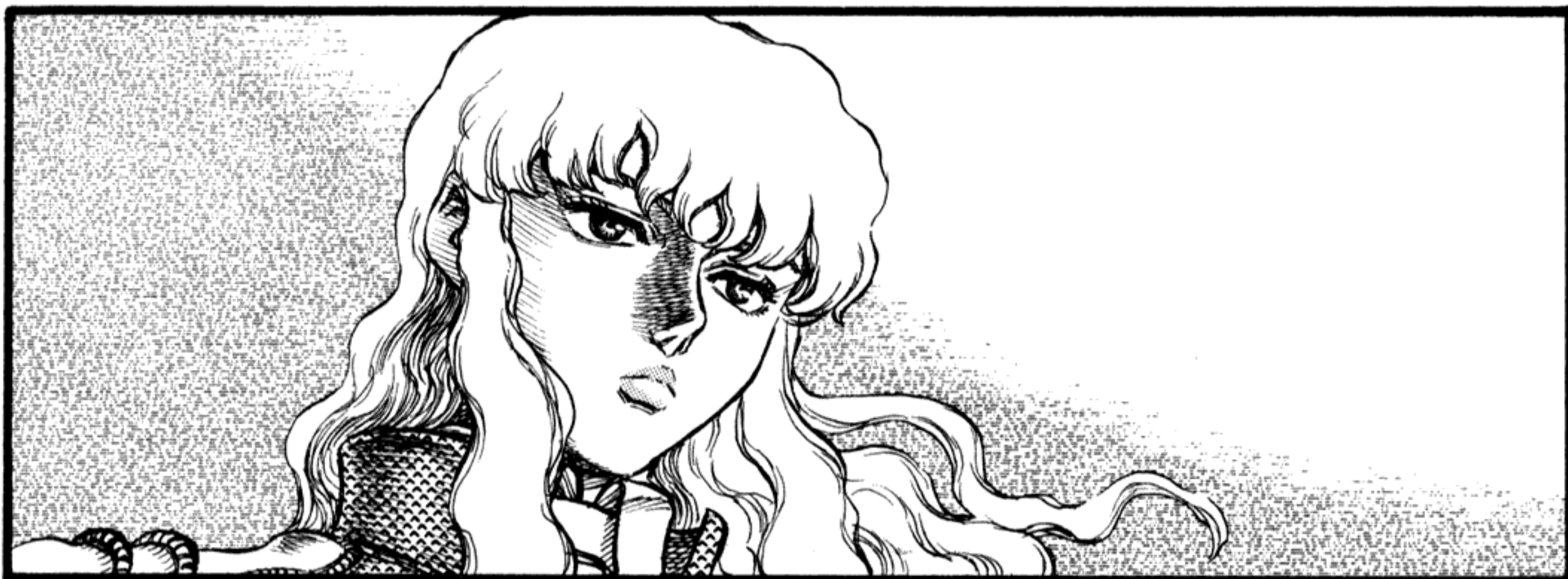


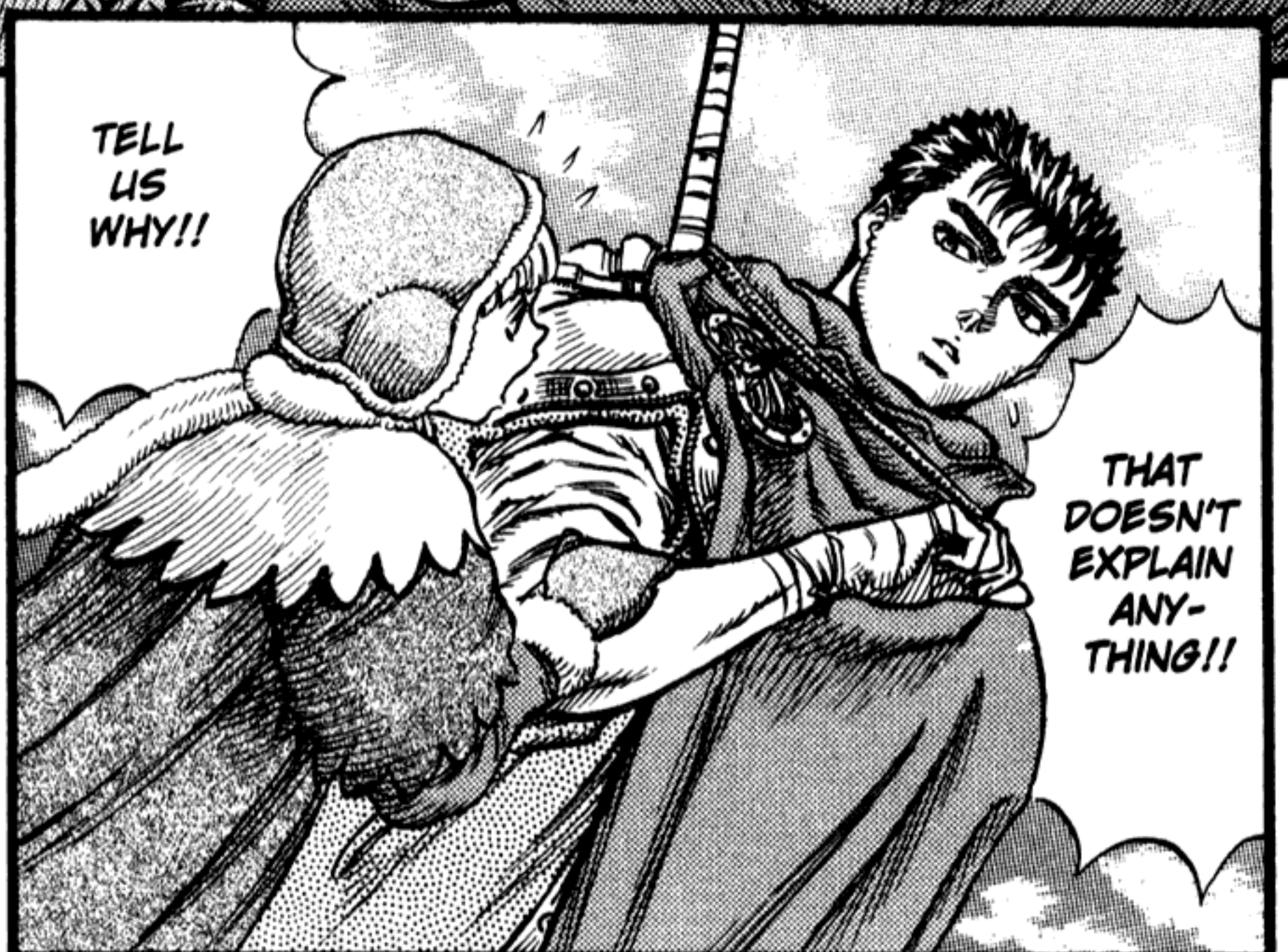
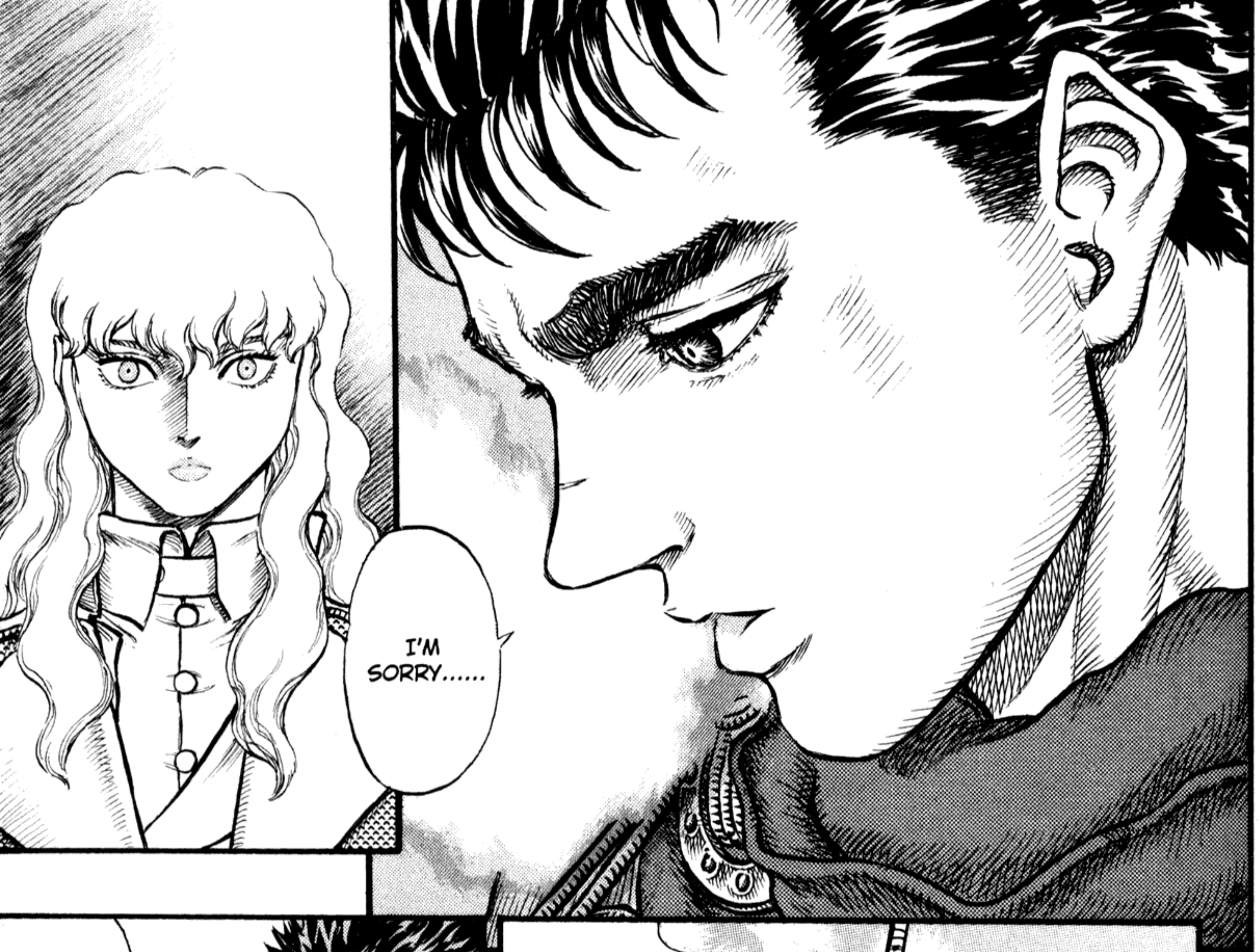


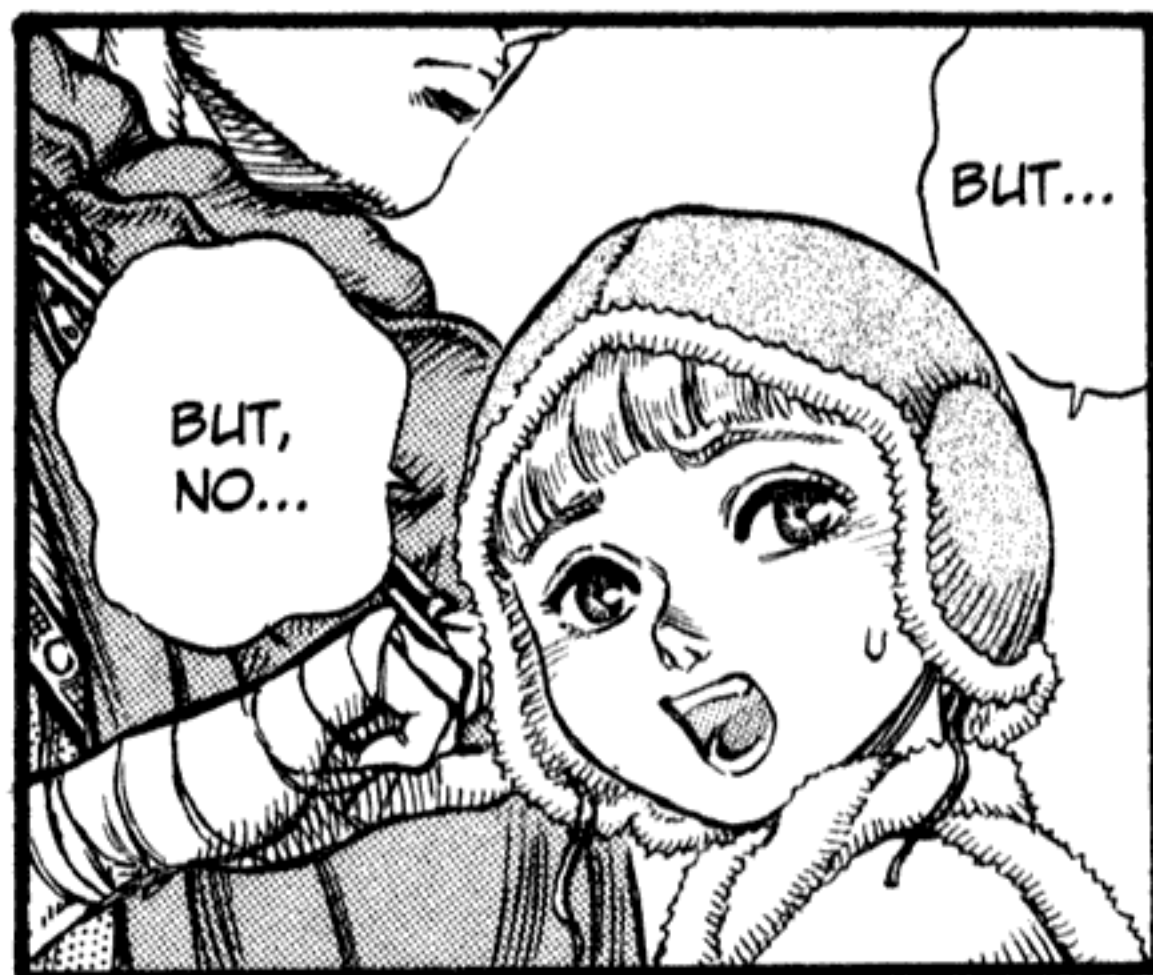
サテライト

旅立ちの朝(2)

THE MORNING DEPARTURE, CHAPTER 2







BUT...

BUT,
NO...



HUSH,
AND
LET
HIM
GO.

IT'S A
MAN'S
DECISION.



GLITS IS
THE RAIDERS'
CAPTAIN...
HE'S VITAL!!

TH-
THIS
IS BAD
FOR ALL
OF US,
RIGHT?!

WE CAN'T
LET HIM
LEAVE!!



HEY!
SINCE IT'S
COME TO THIS,
LISTEN UP!

WE WERE INVINCIBLE
BEFORE HE JOINED!!
HE AIN'T THE ONLY
REASON THE HAWKS
GOT SO STRONG!!



KEH!

SHUT
UP,
YOU!!



YEAH,
BUT--!

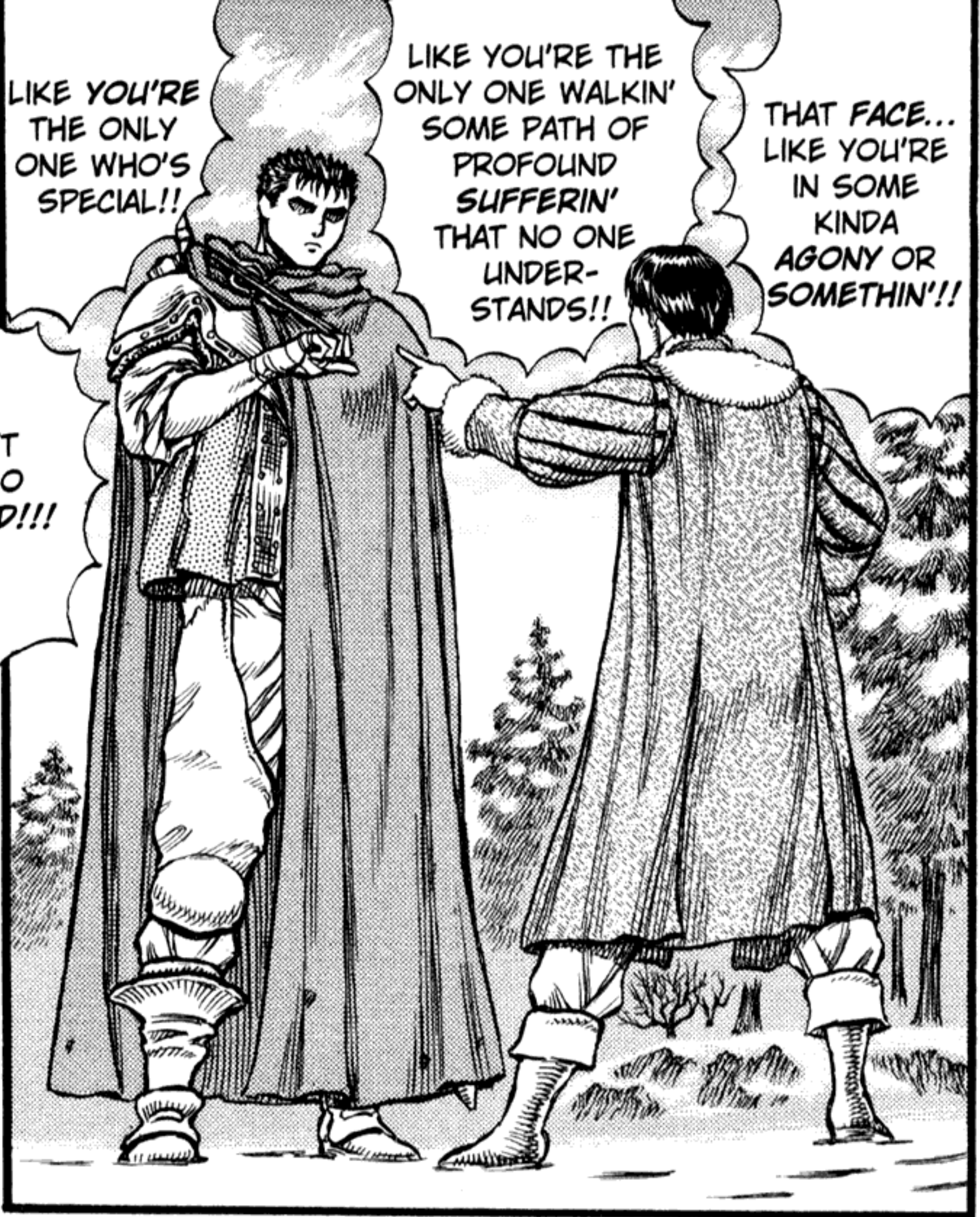


LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SPECIAL!!

DON'T BE SO PROUD!!!

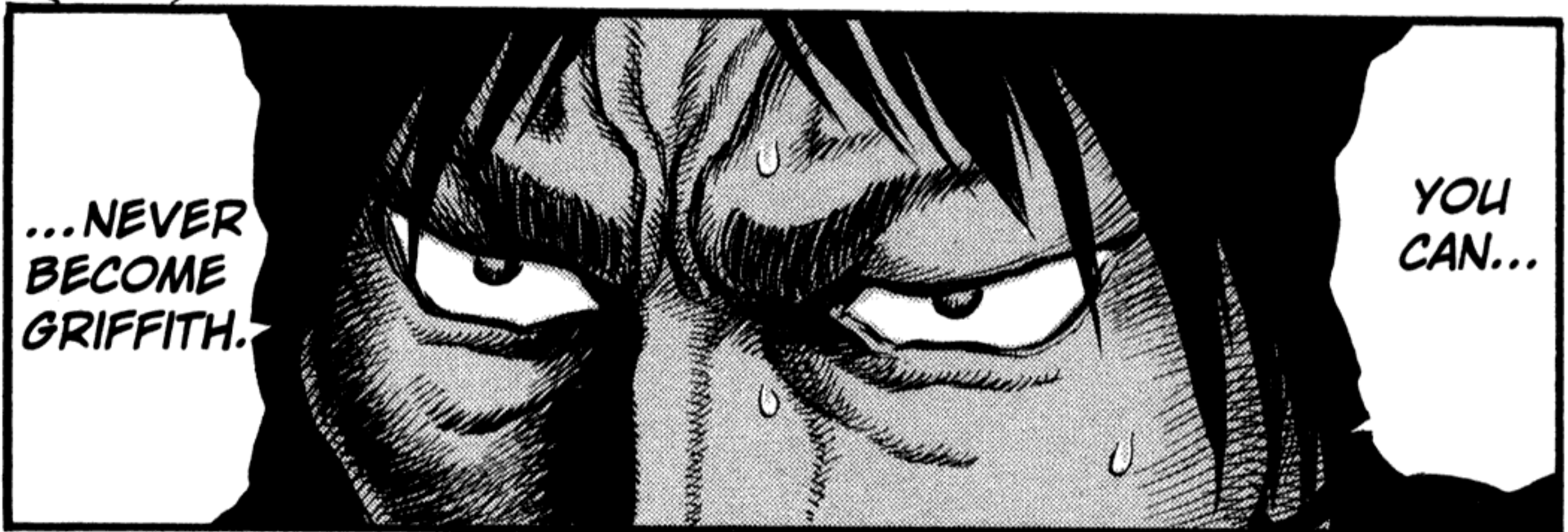
LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WALKIN' SOME PATH OF PROFOUND SUFFERIN' THAT NO ONE UNDERSTANDS!!

THAT FACE... LIKE YOU'RE IN SOME KINDA AGONY OR SOMETHIN'!!



I DON'T BUY IT.

YOU AIN'T SPECIAL.

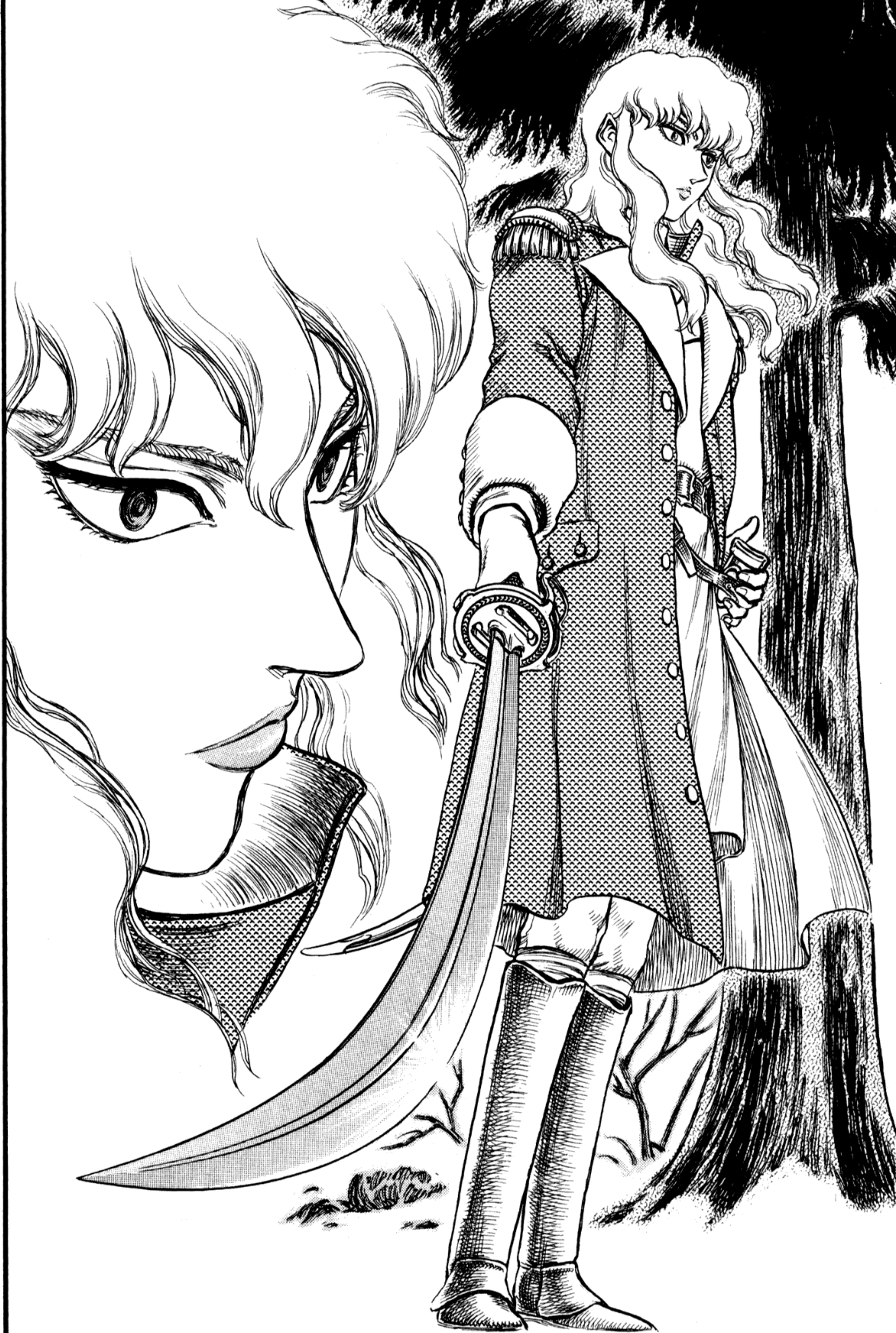


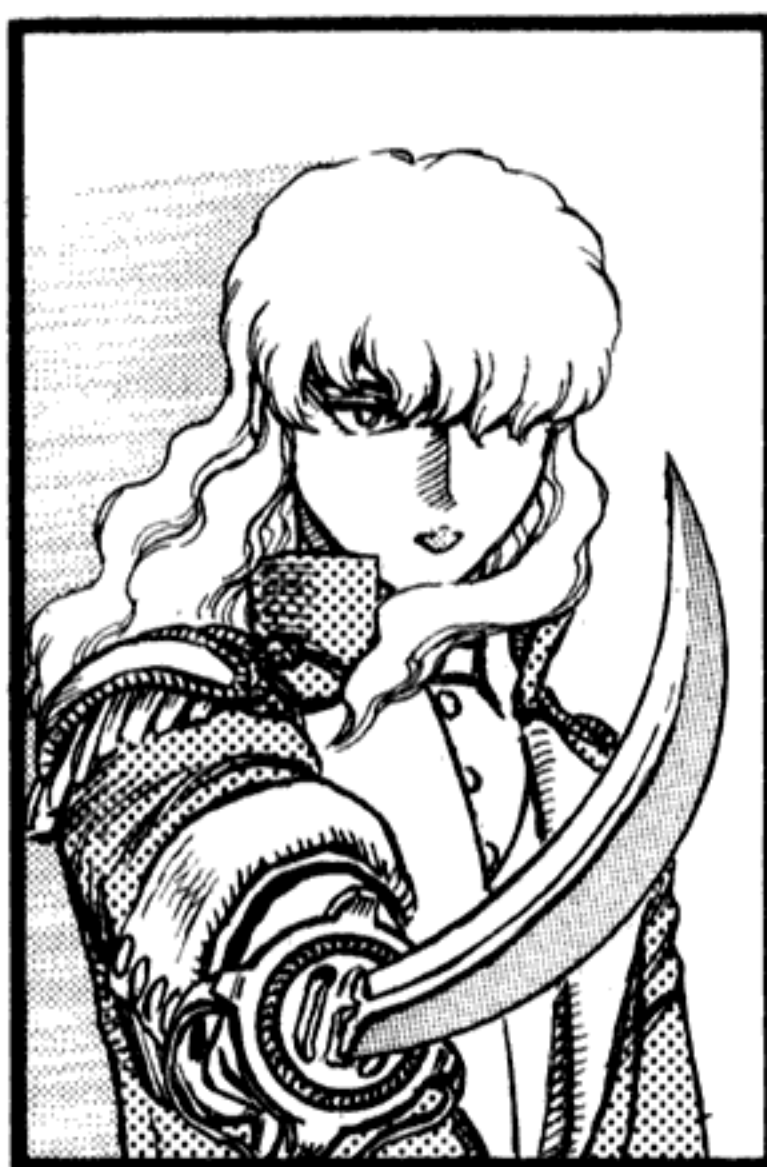
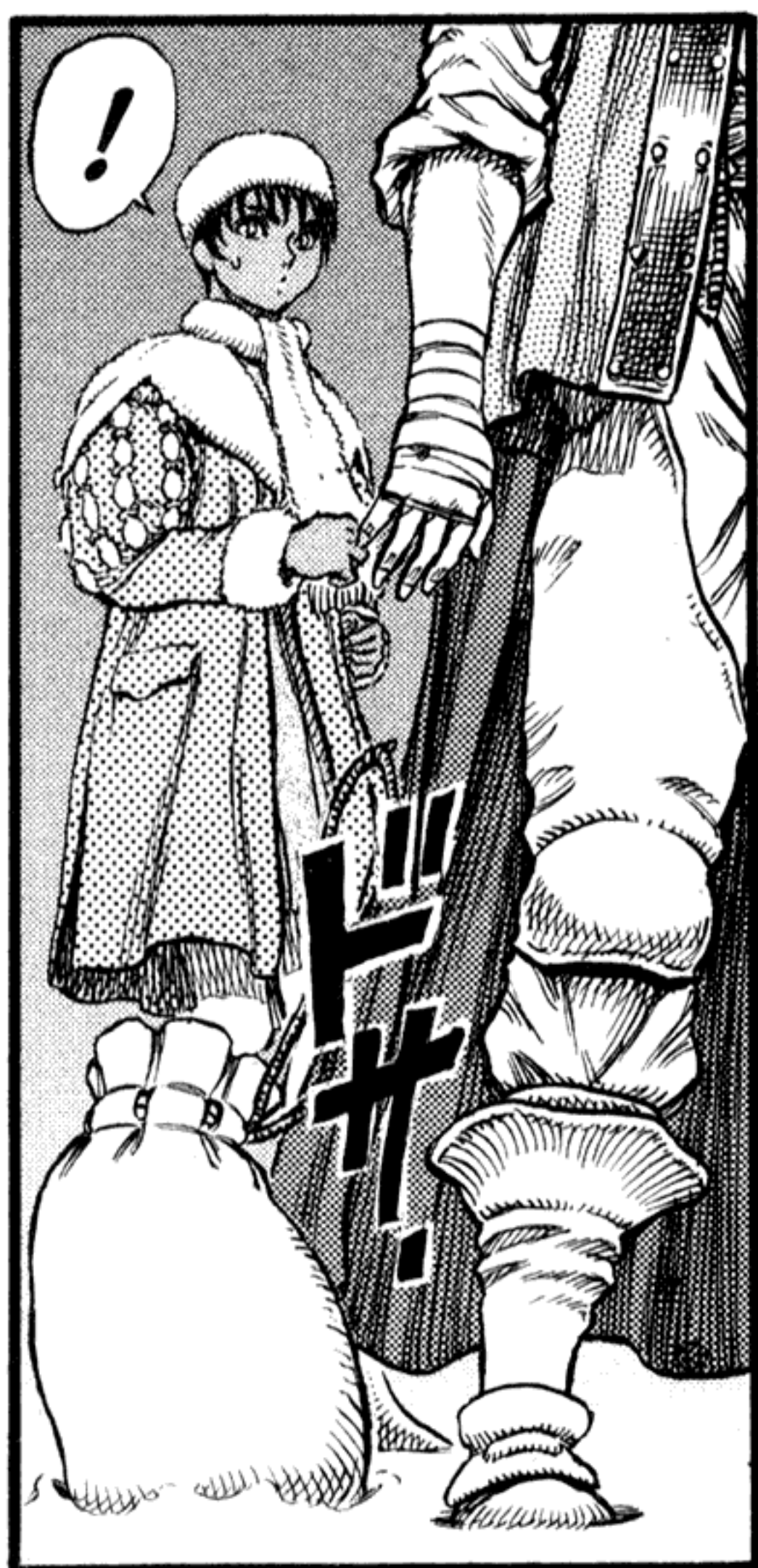
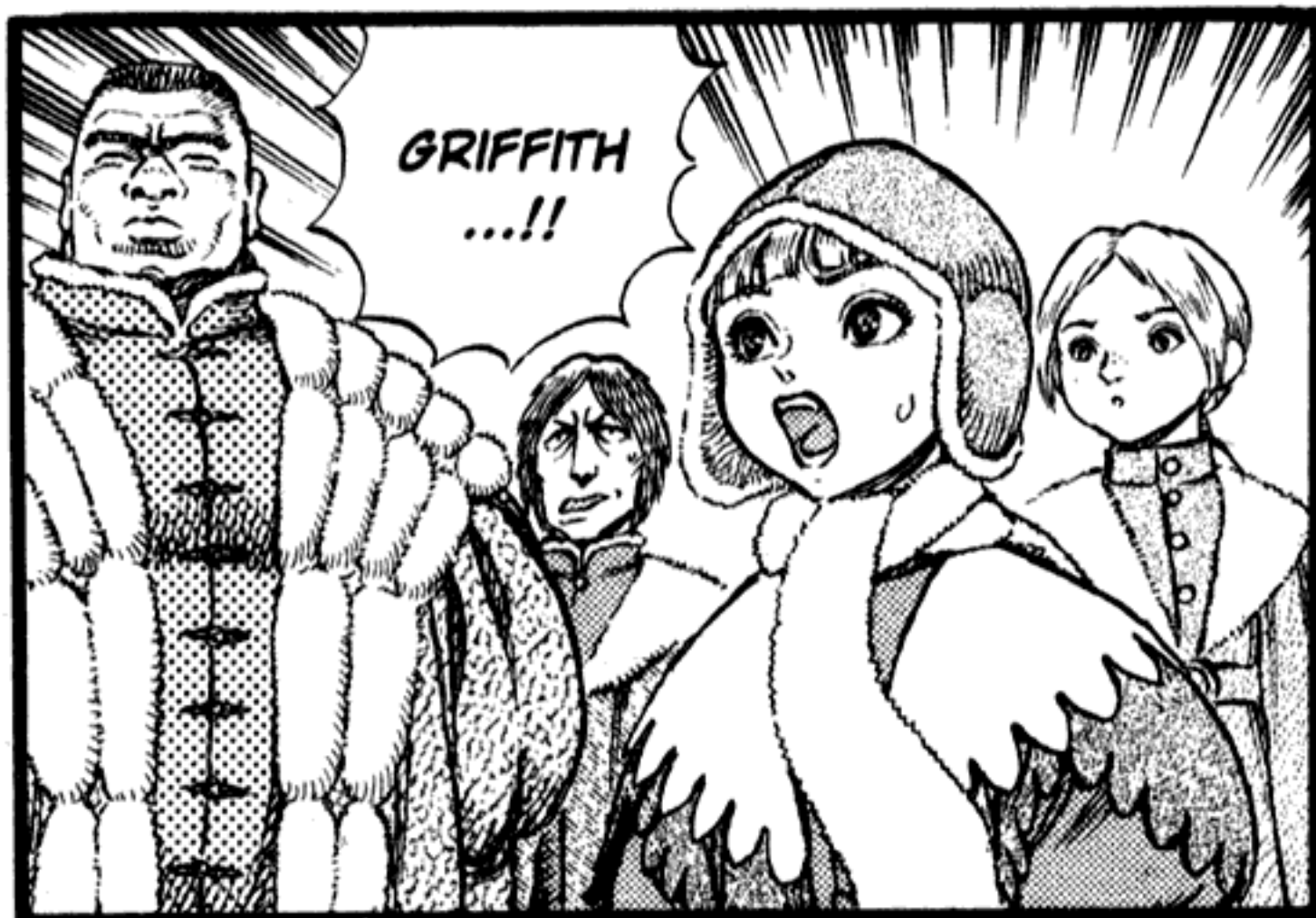
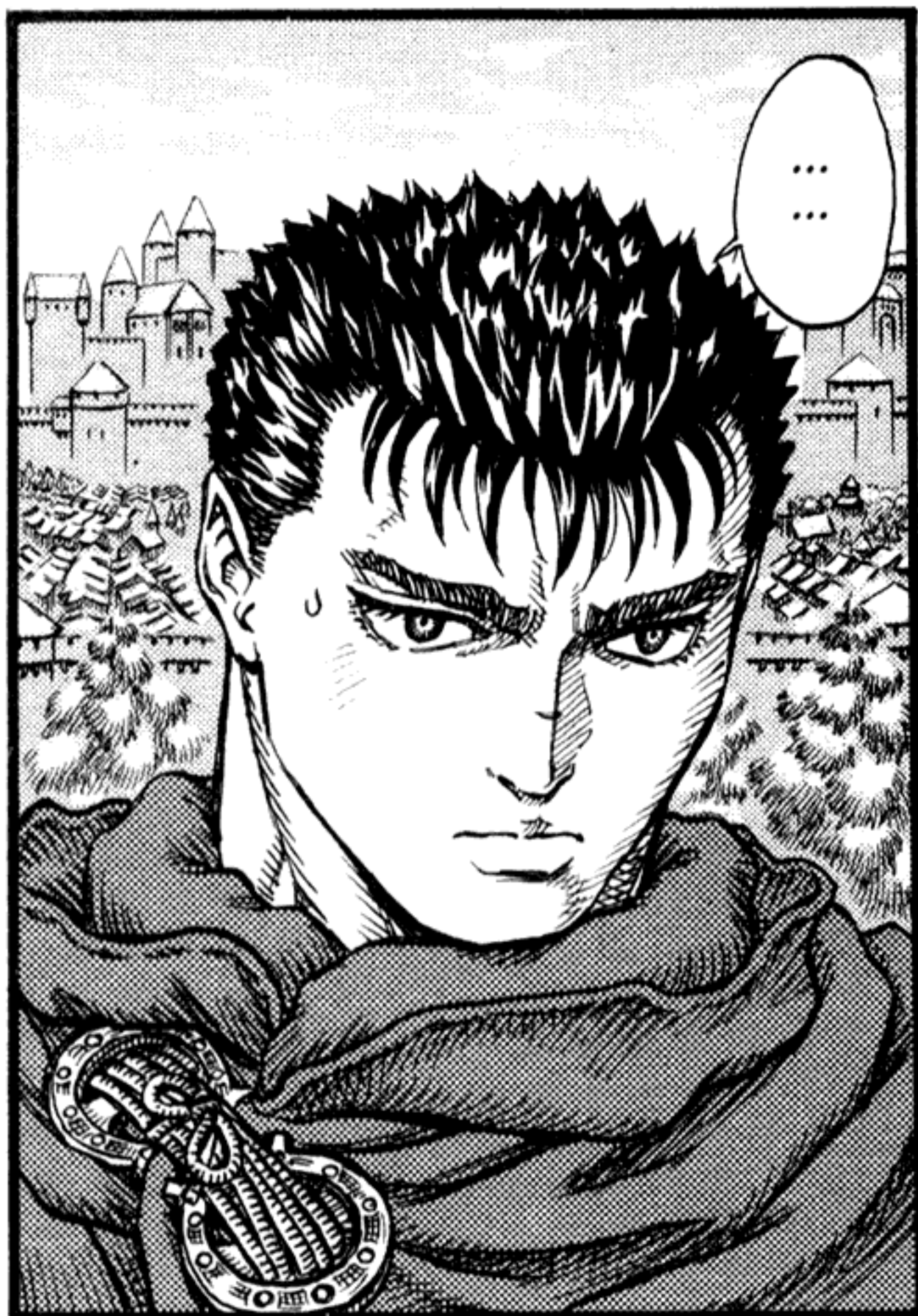
...NEVER BECOME GRIFFITH.

YOU CAN...

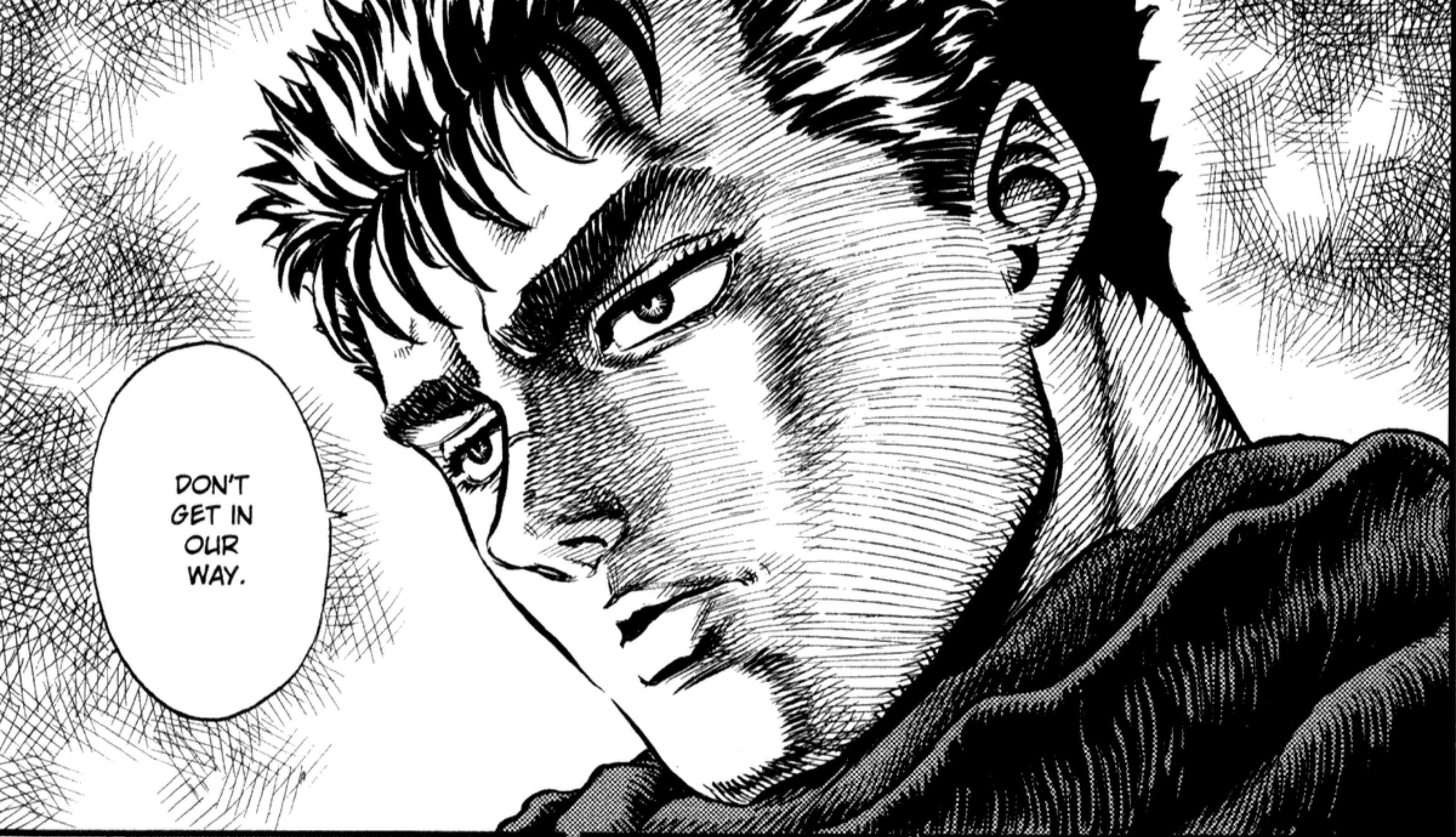


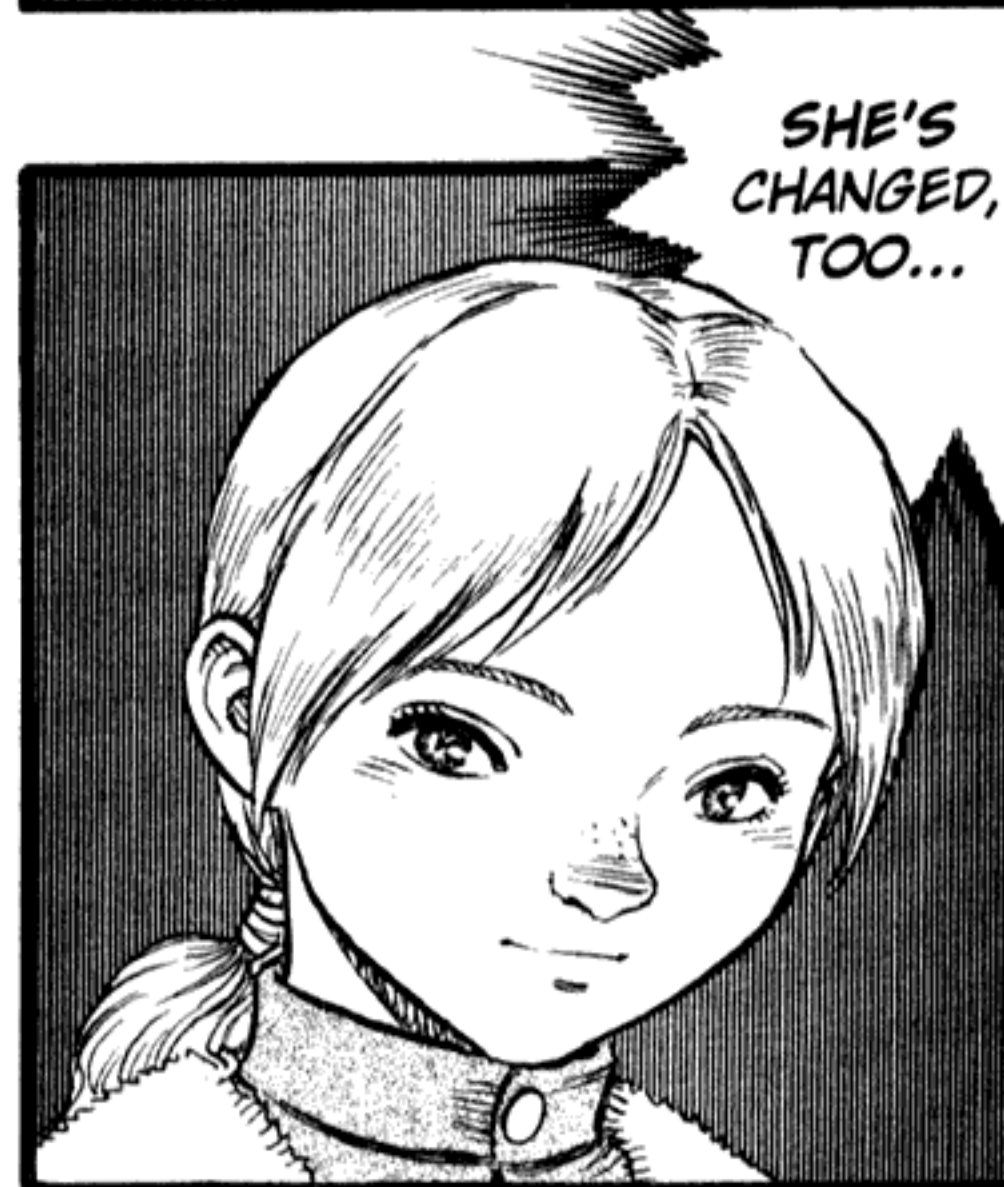
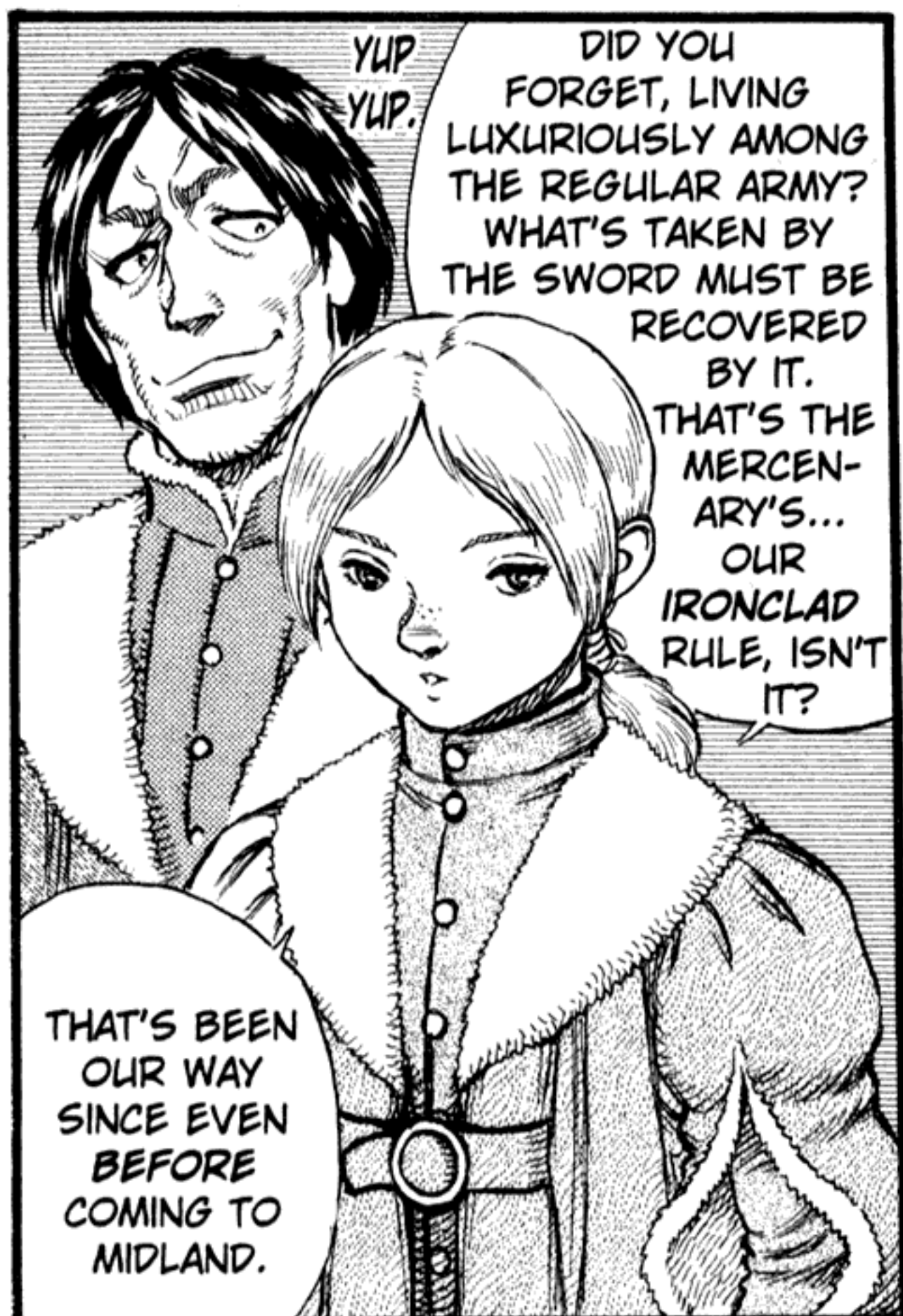












...IS SHE
HERSELF EVEN
AWARE THAT
SHE'S BEGUN
TO CHANGE?

I BET
SHE
WOULDN'T
EVEN
HAVE
FALTERED
AT LOSING
HER OWN
LIFE IF IT
HAD BEEN
GRIFFITH'S
WILL.

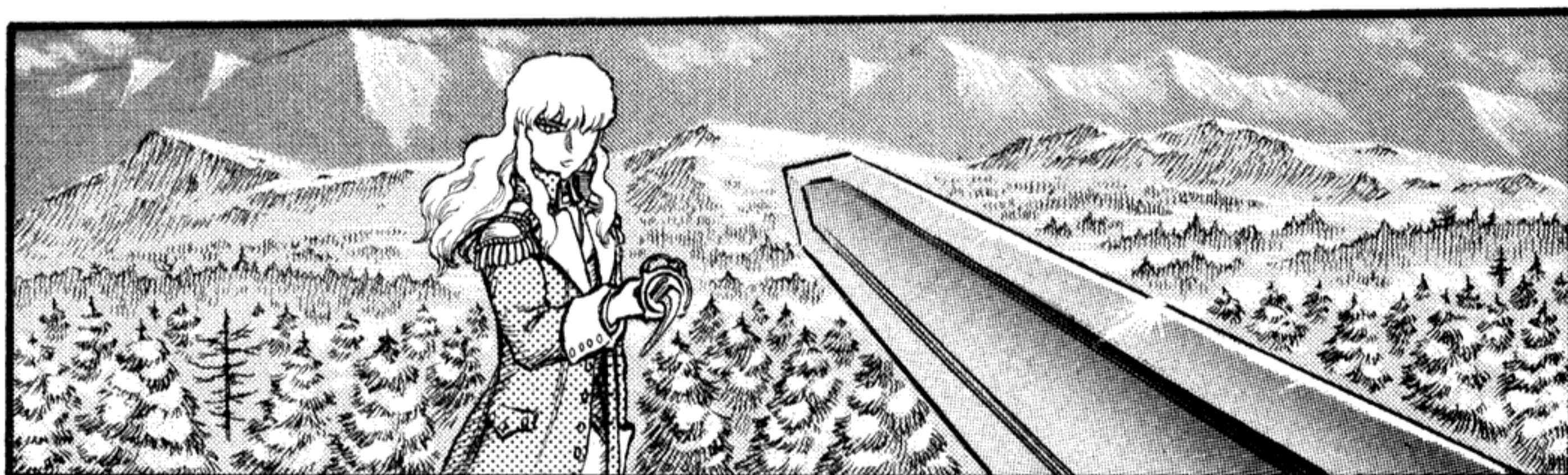
THE
OLD
CASCA
WOULD
HAVE
NEVER
CARED
EVEN IF
IT CAME
DOWN TO
COMRADES
GETTING
HURT.

TO
CASCA,
HIS
WORD
WAS
GOSPEL.

BUT...

NO.

MAYBE
THAT'S
STILL
THE
TRUTH...



SOMEONE WHO
WOULD NEVER
DEPEND UPON
ANOTHER'S DREAM...
SOMEONE WHO
WOULDN'T BE COM-
PELLED BY ANYONE,
BUT WOULD
DETERMINE AND
PURSUE HIS OWN
REASON TO LIVE...

YOUR EXPECTATIONS--
YOUR CONFIDENCE IN
ME AS YOUR SOLDIER
IS VANISHING INTO THIN
AIR, SO I CAN'T
COMPLAIN IF YOU
RESENT ME.

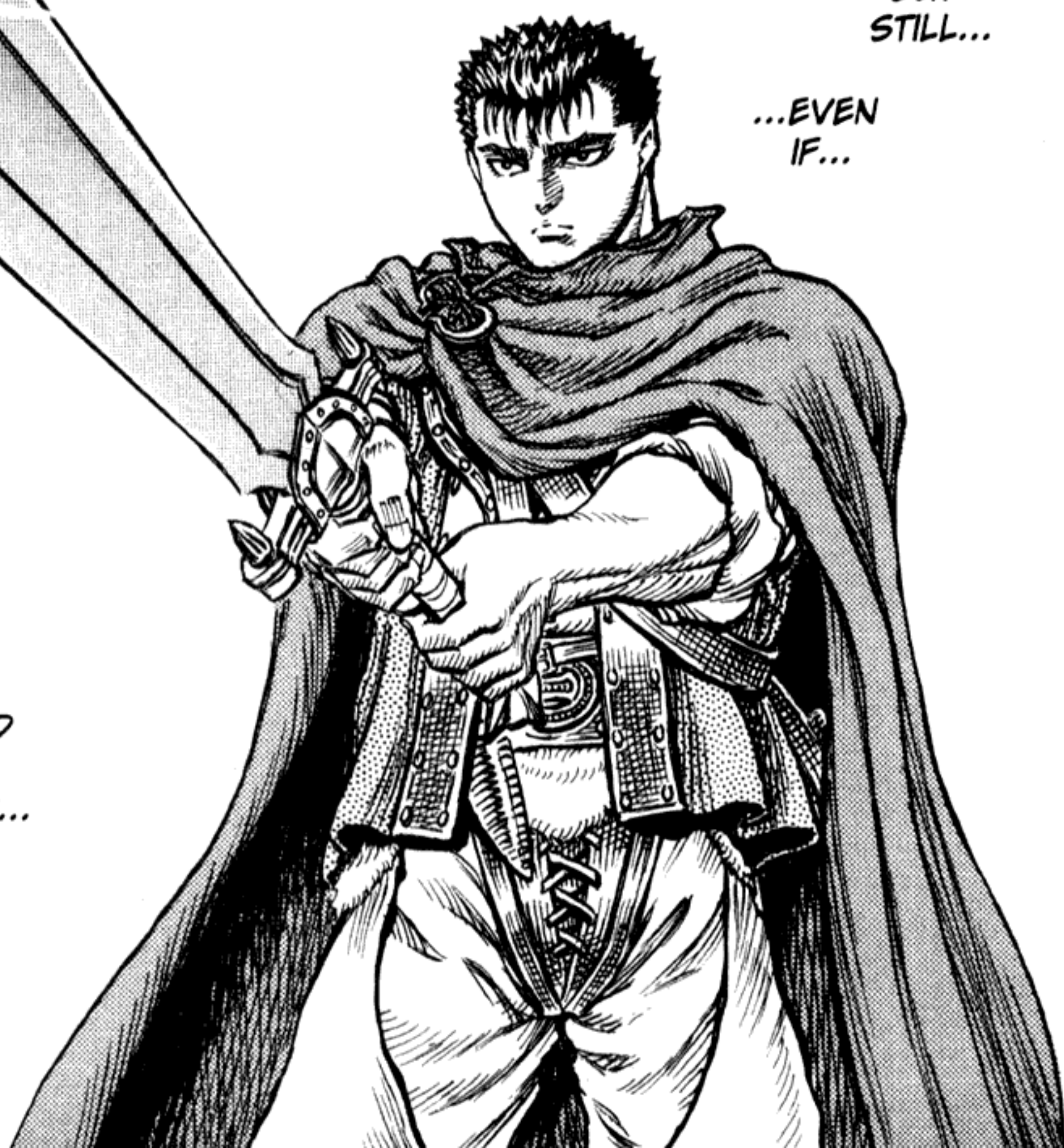
YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'RE
STARING
DOWN AN
ENEMY.
MAKES
SENSE...



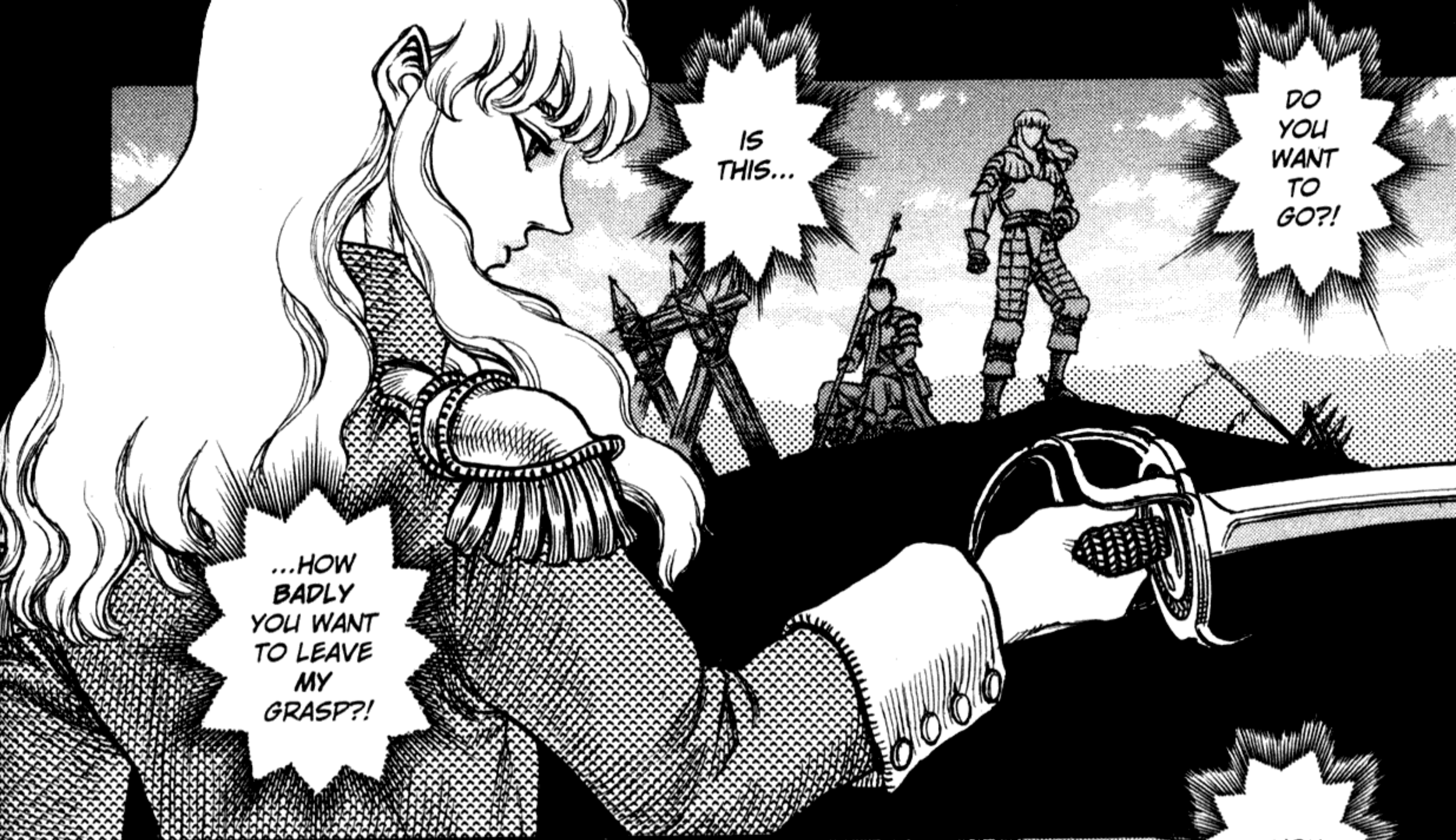
BUT
STILL...

...EVEN
IF...

...I'M
HATED
OR
TREATED
LIKE A
TRAITOR...







IS
THIS...

DO
YOU
WANT
TO
GO?!

...HOW
BADLY
YOU WANT
TO LEAVE
MY
GRASP?!



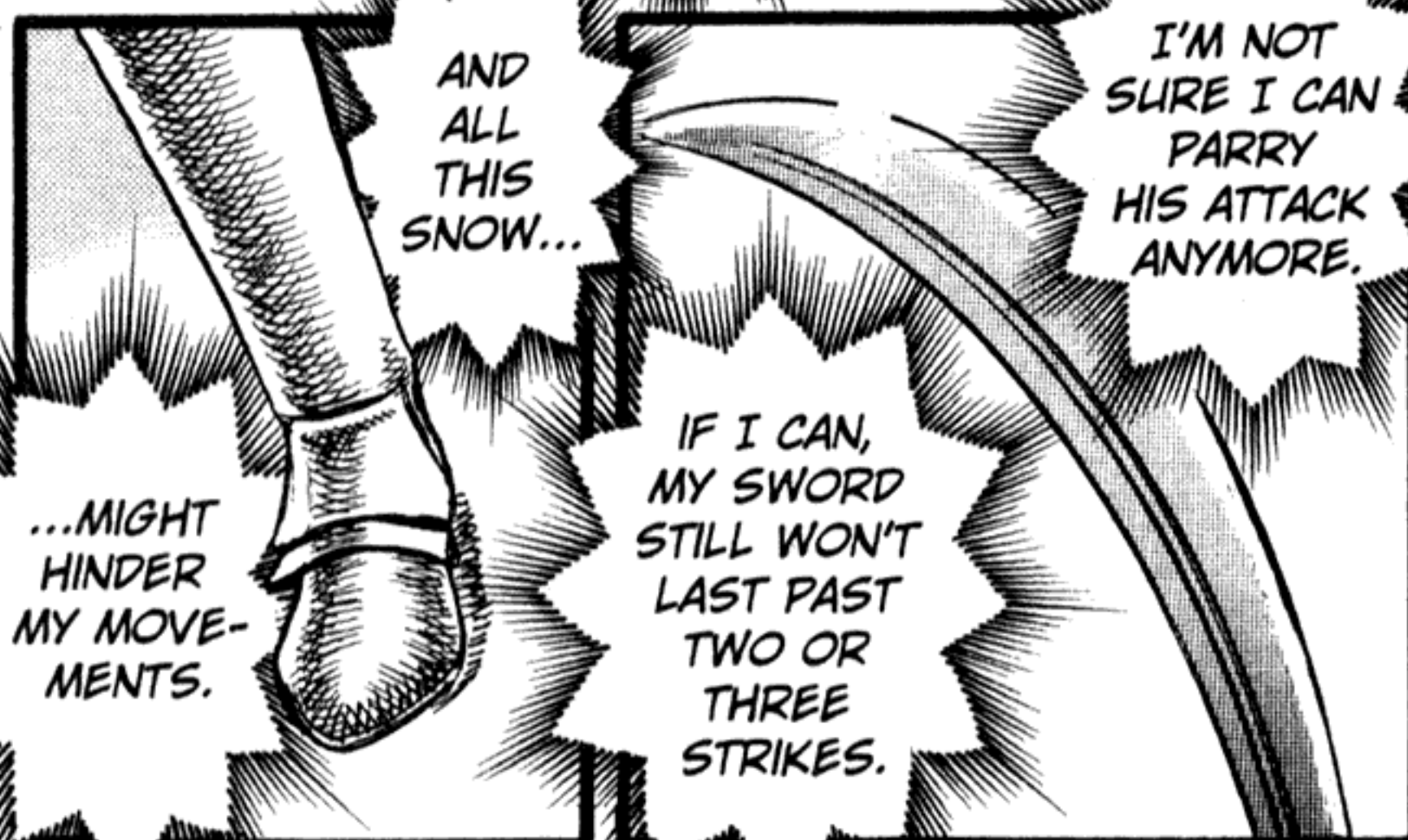
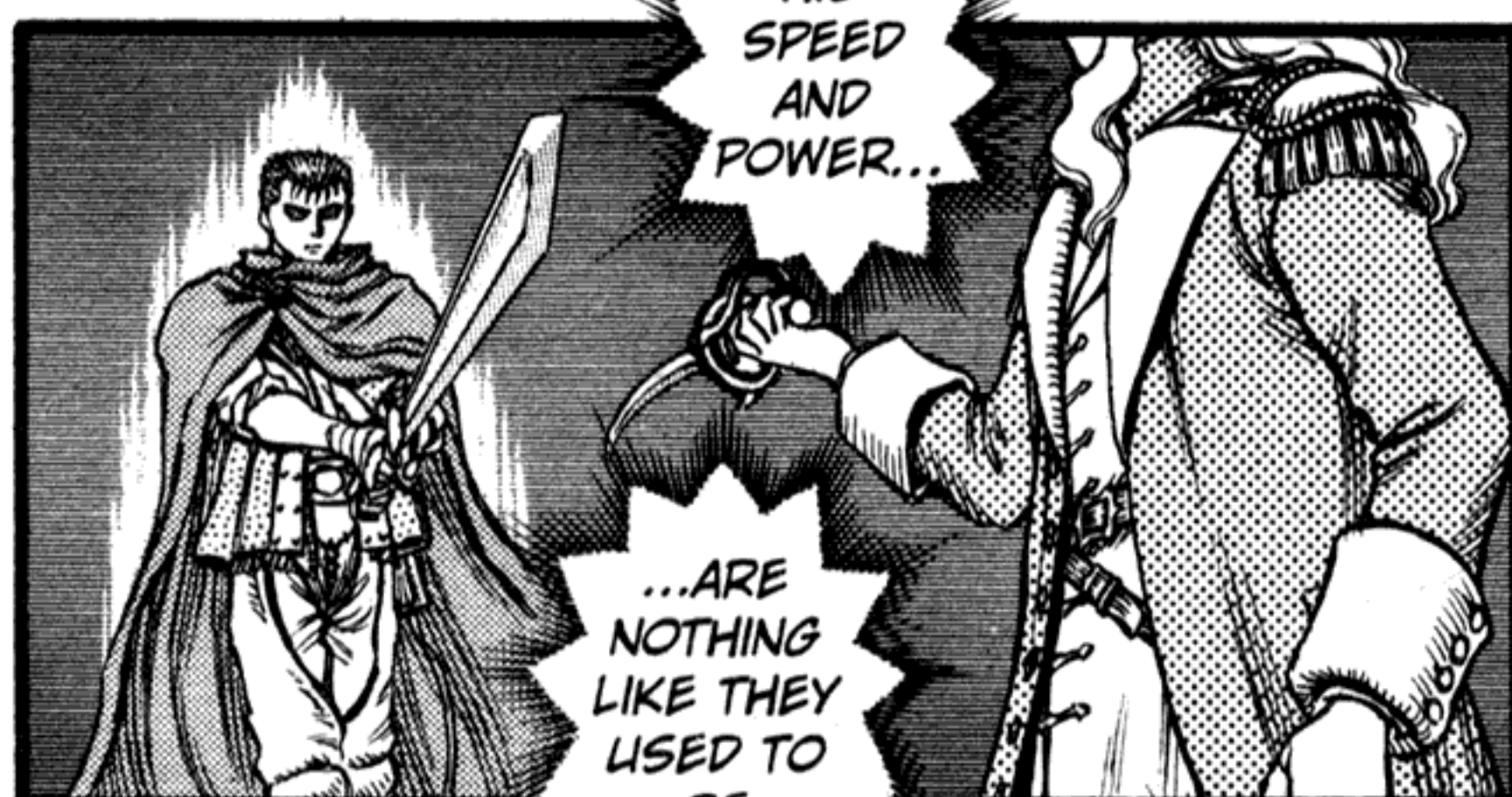
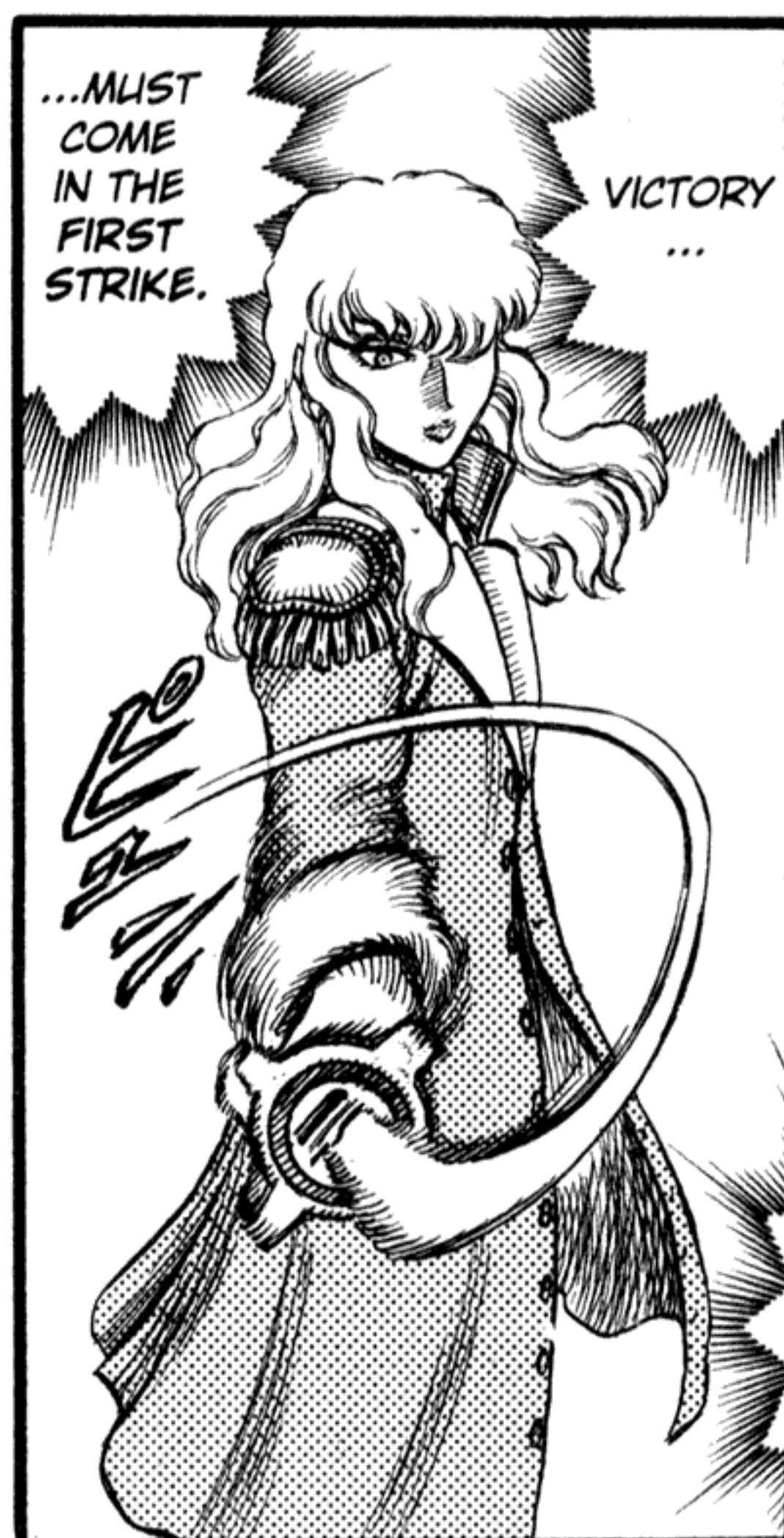
...YOU
CAN'T.

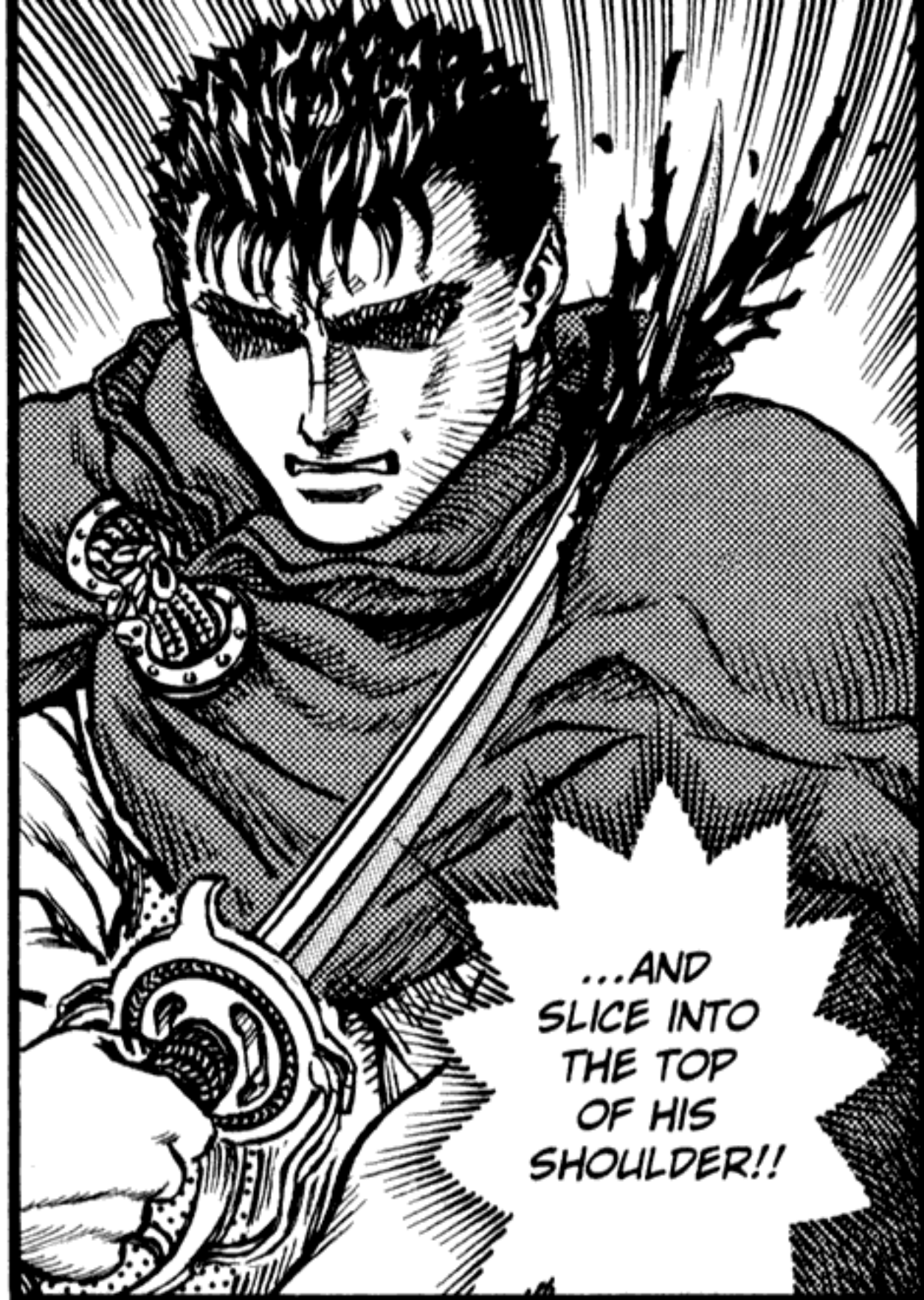
YOU
CAN'T!!



I
WON'T
HAVE
IT!!

I
WON'T
LET
YOU!!

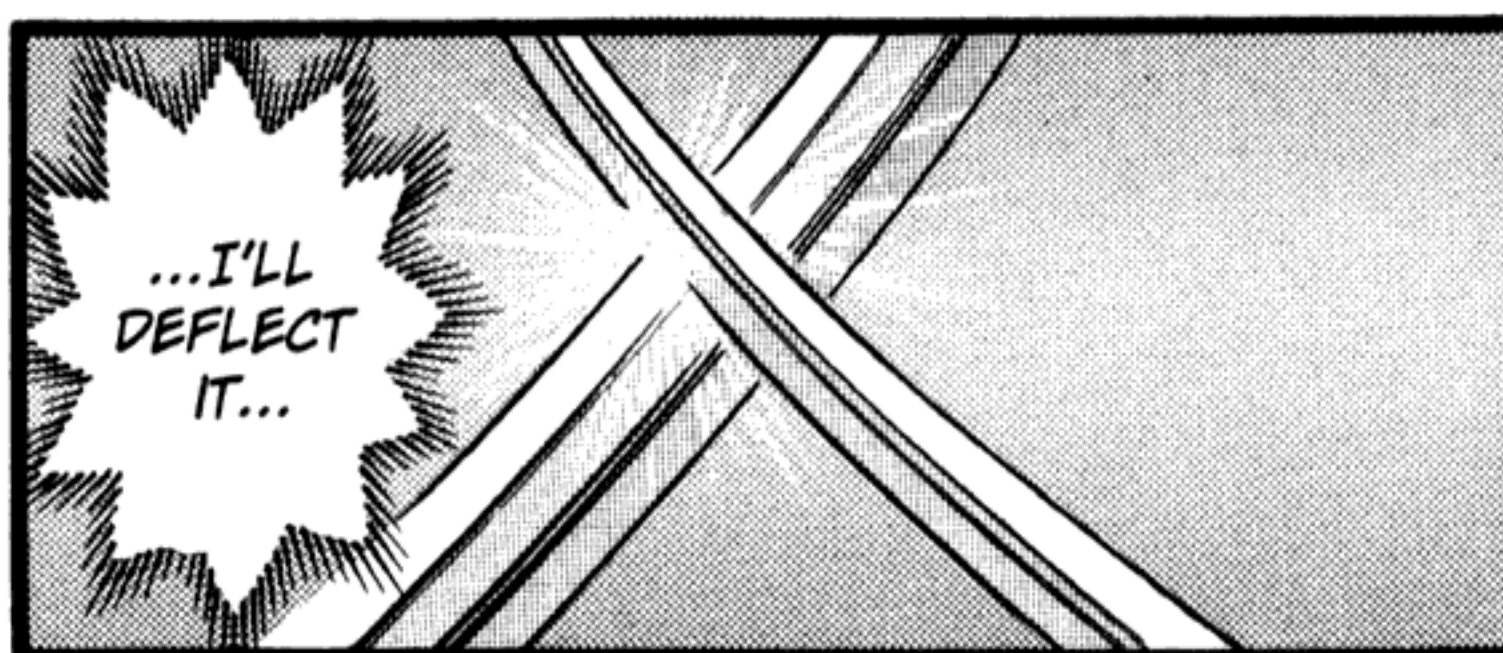




...AND
SLICE INTO
THE TOP
OF HIS
SHOULDER!!

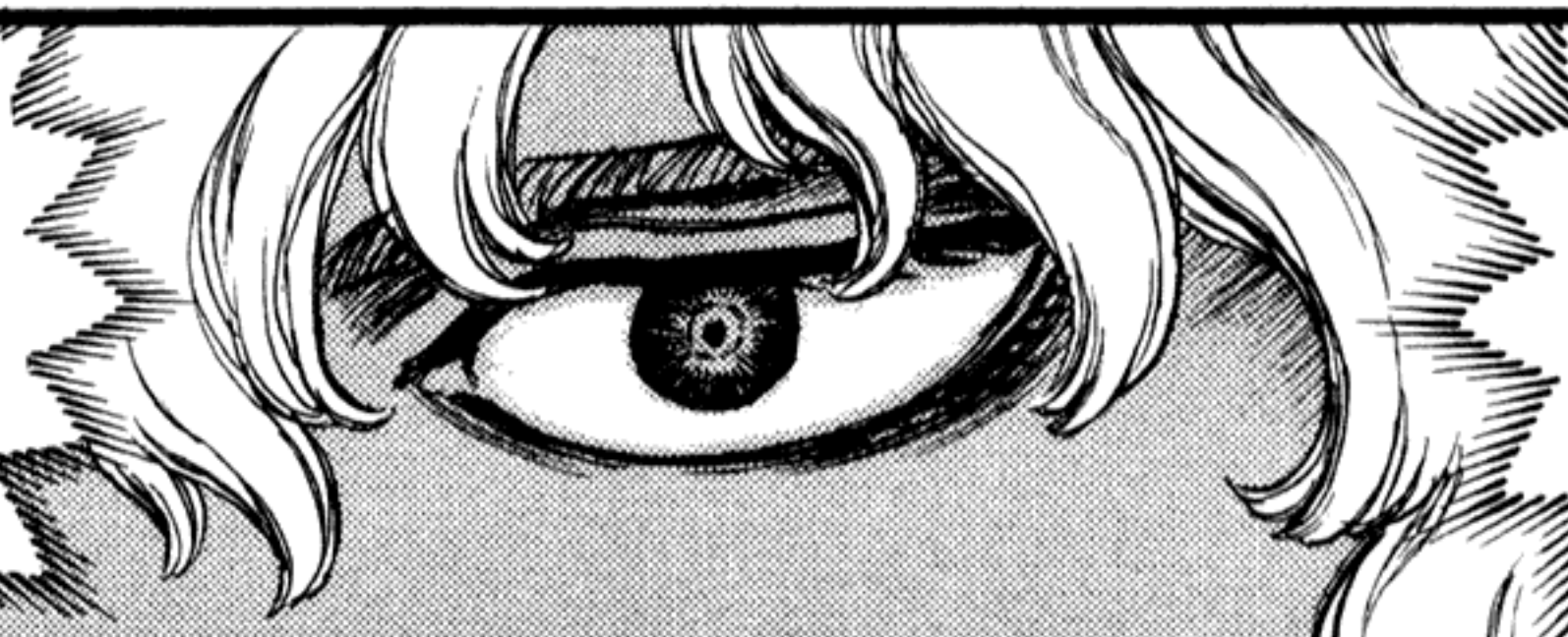


THE
INSTANT
HIS
BLADE
FALLS...



...I'LL
DEFLECT
IT...

THERE'S NO
OTHER TECHNIQUE
I CAN USE TO
BEAT HIM NOW...
IF SUCCESSFUL,
EVEN GLITS
WOULDN'T ESCAPE
UNHARMED.

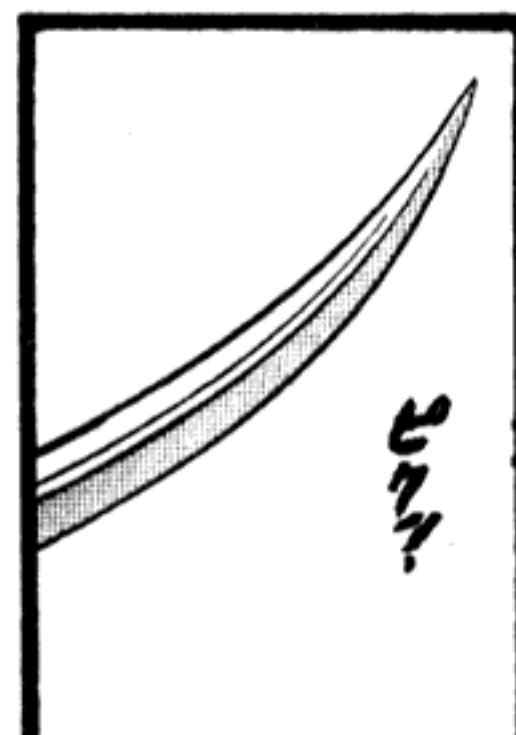
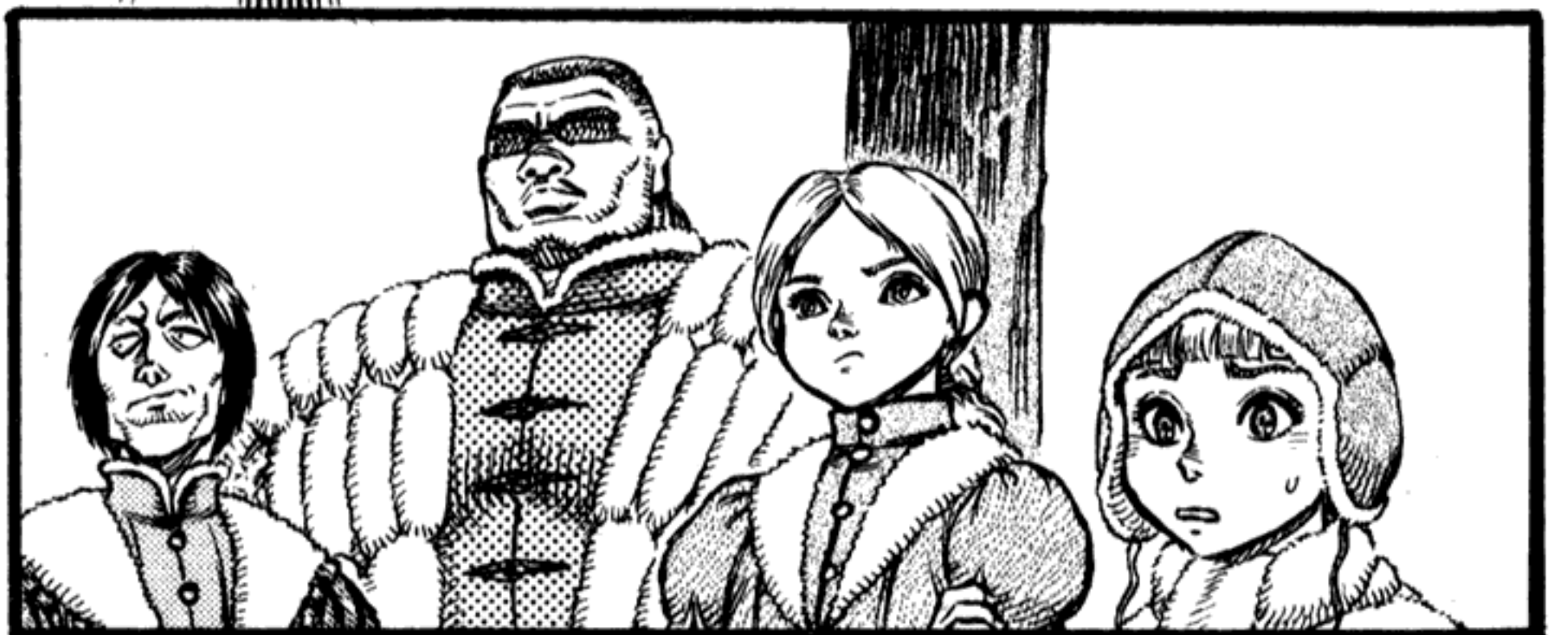
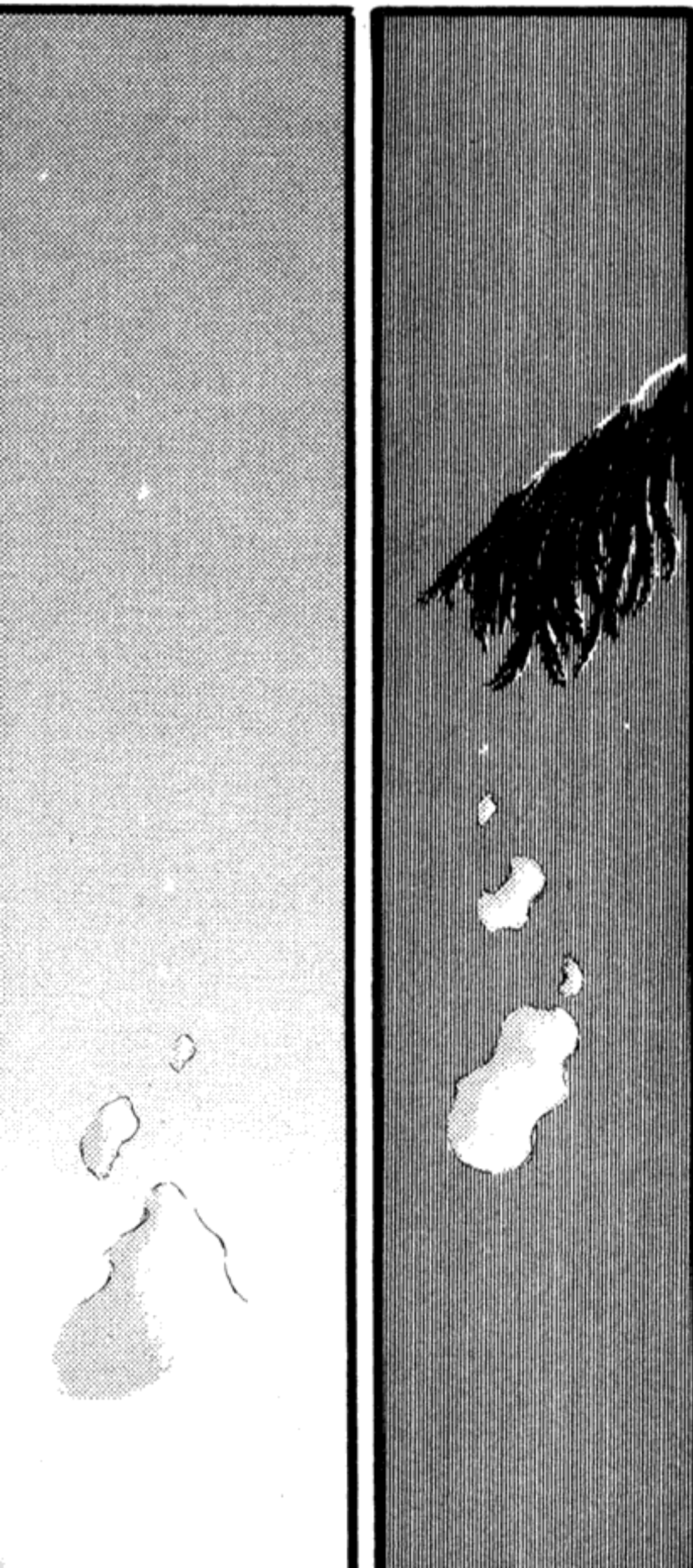


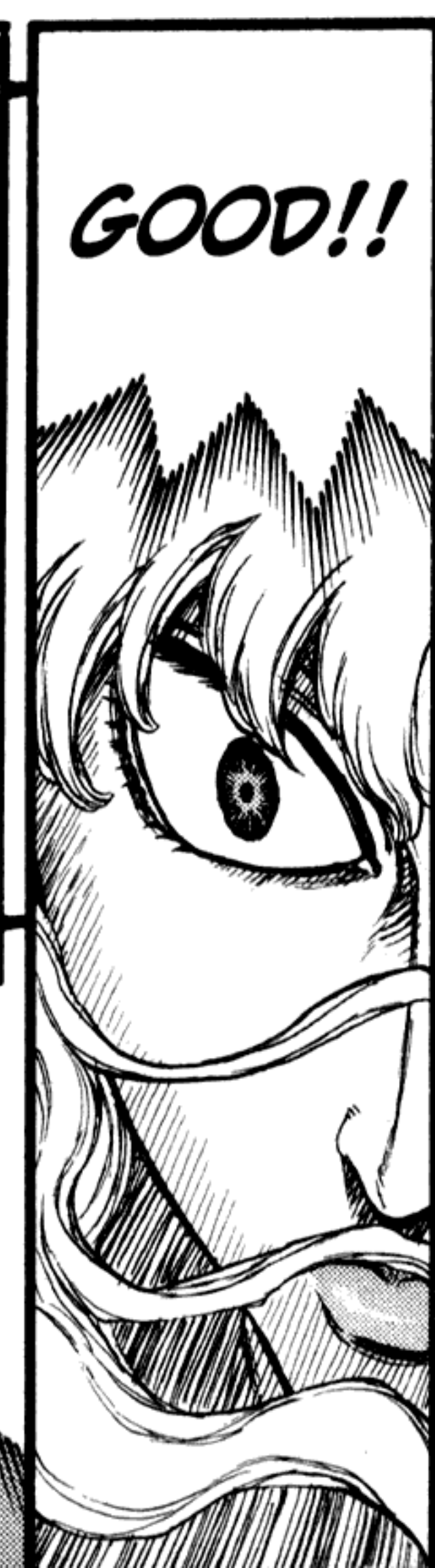
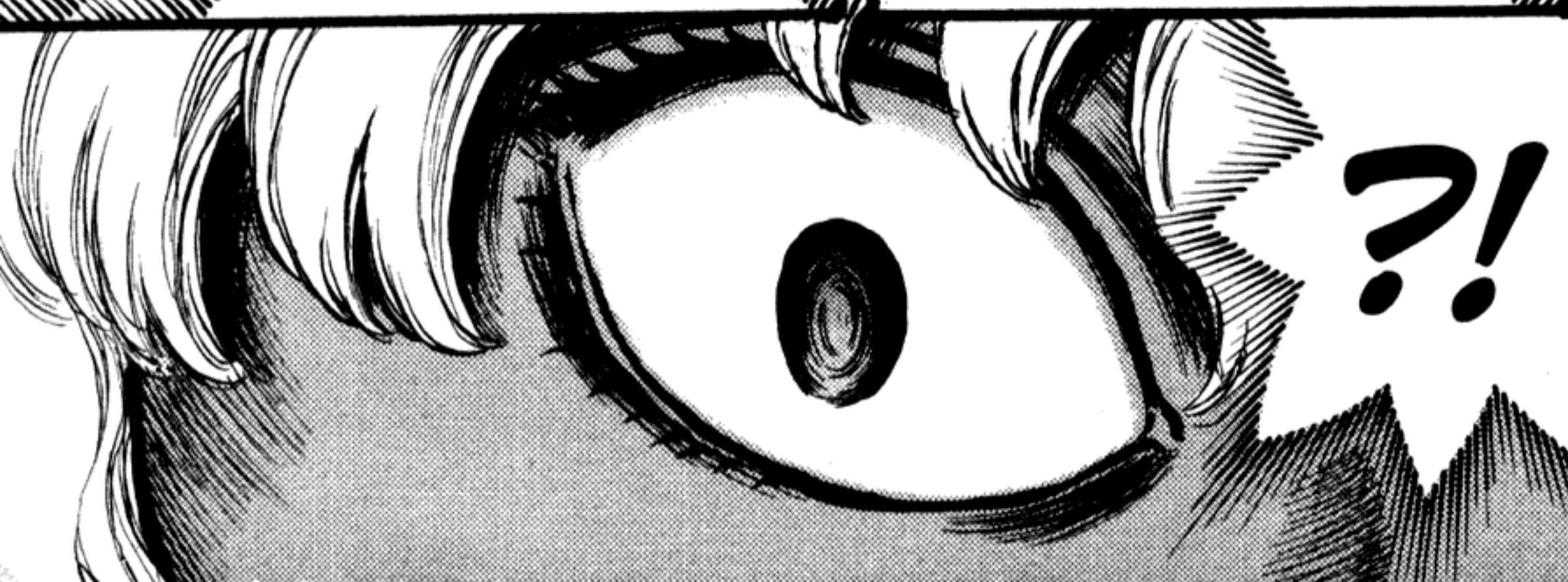
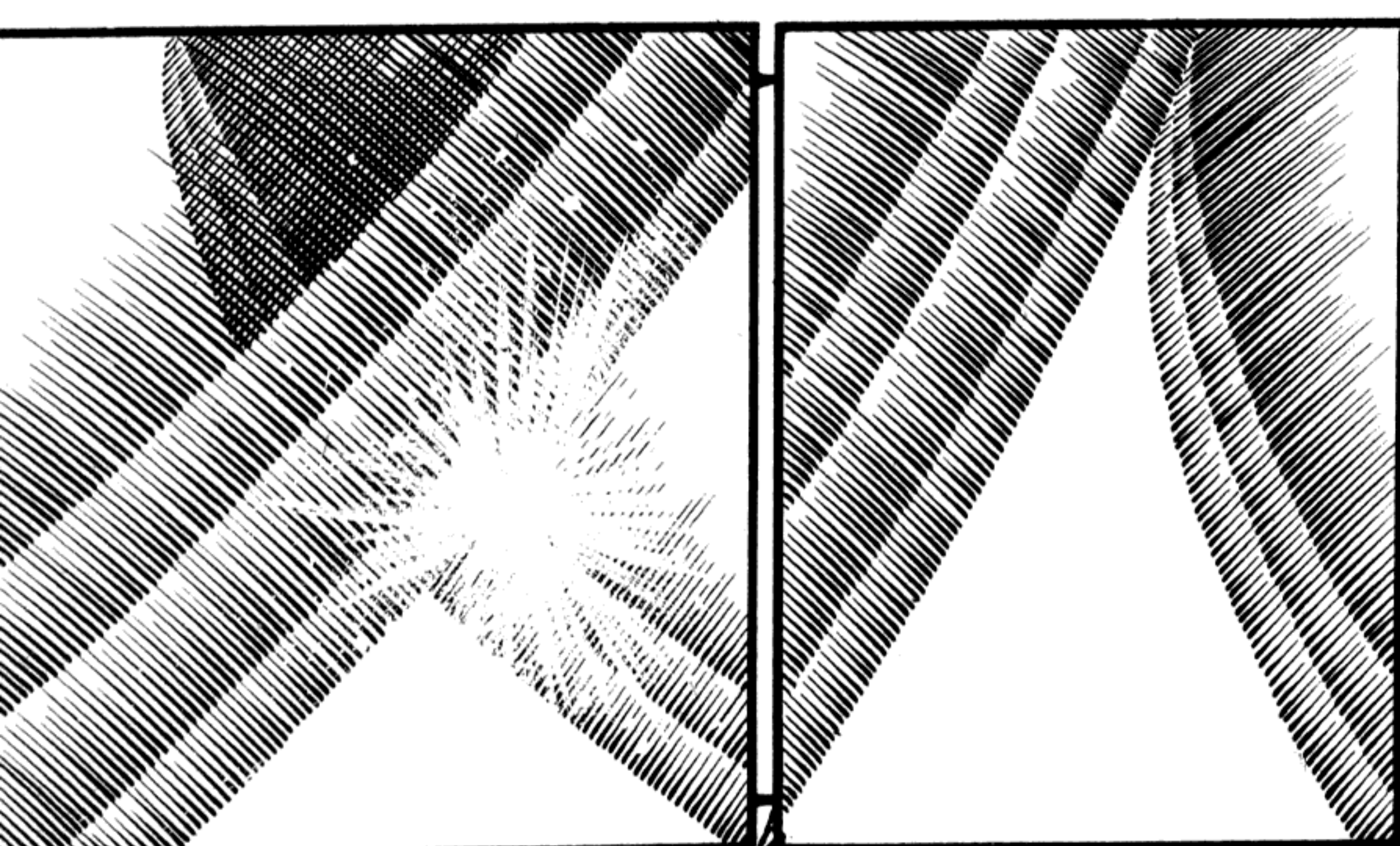
MY SPEED
AND TIMING CAN'T
BE OFF EVEN
SLIGHTLY... IT'S
A STRIKE I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
CONSTRAIN.

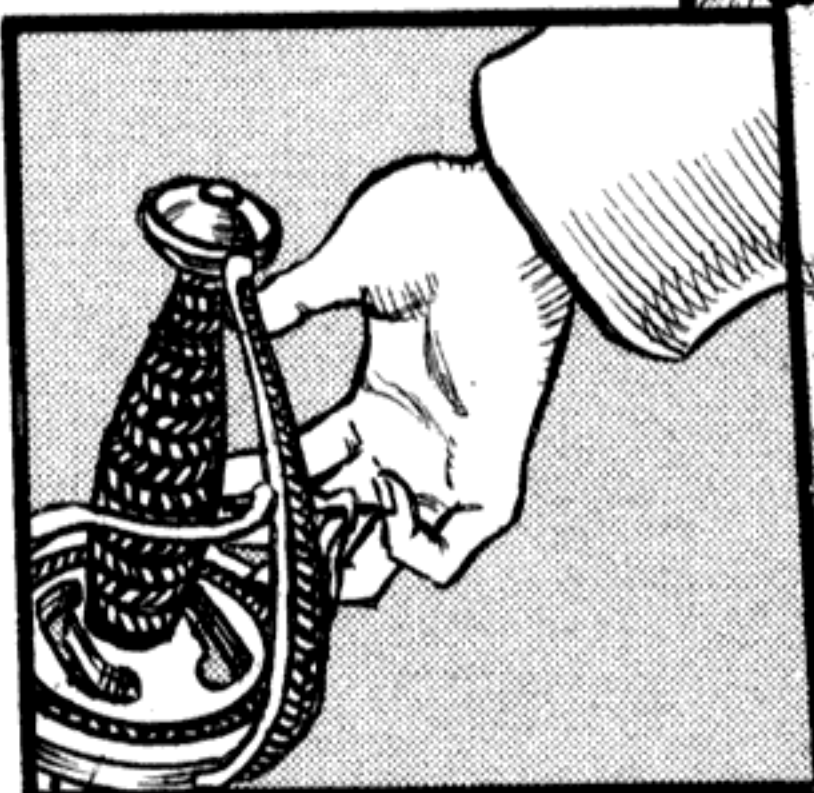
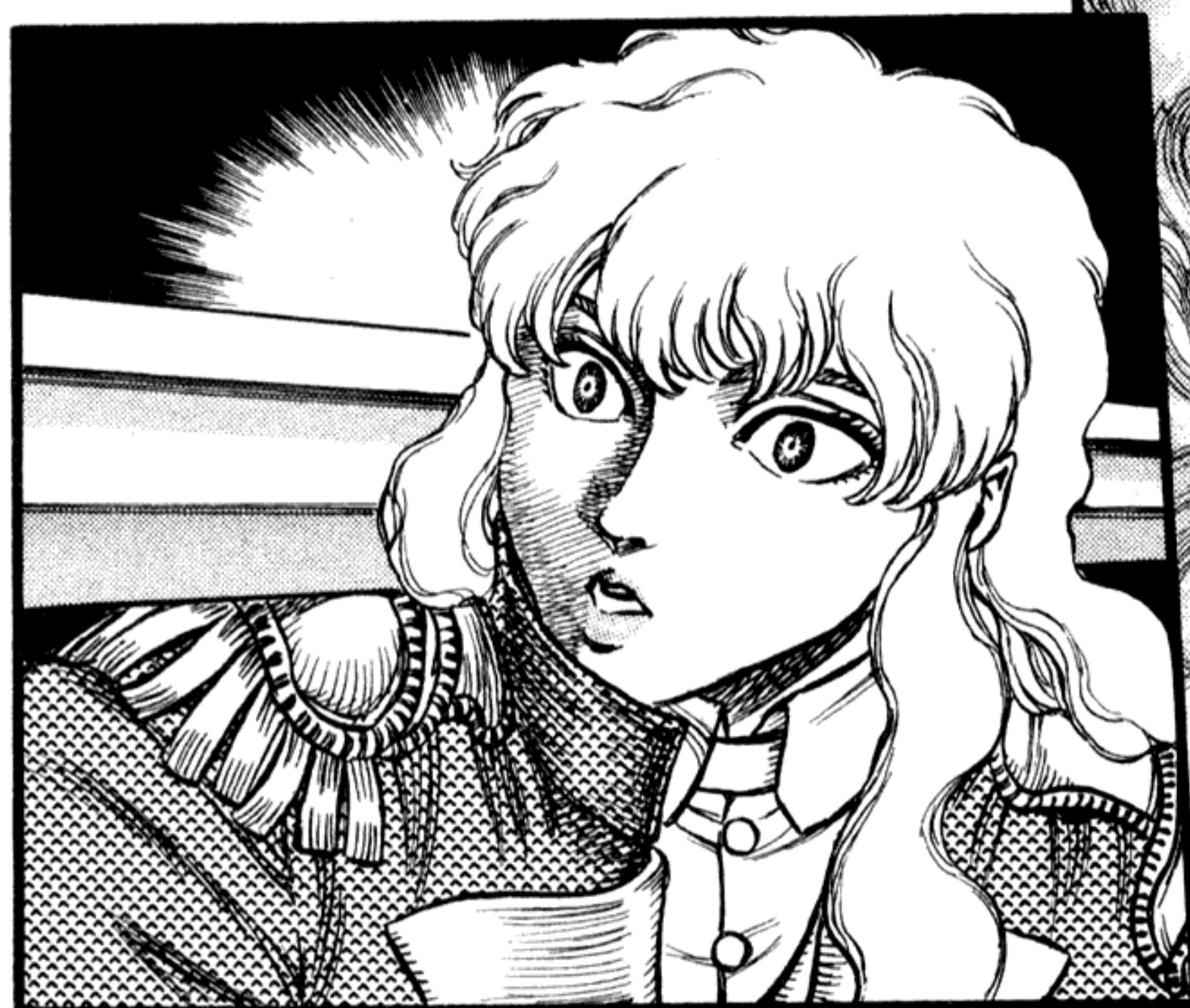


NO. IF IN
THE INSTANT
OUR SWORDS
MEET, THE
PRESSURE FROM
HIS ALTERS THE
ARC OF MINE EVEN
JUST A LITTLE...

...I
MIGHT
REALLY
KILL
HIM!!

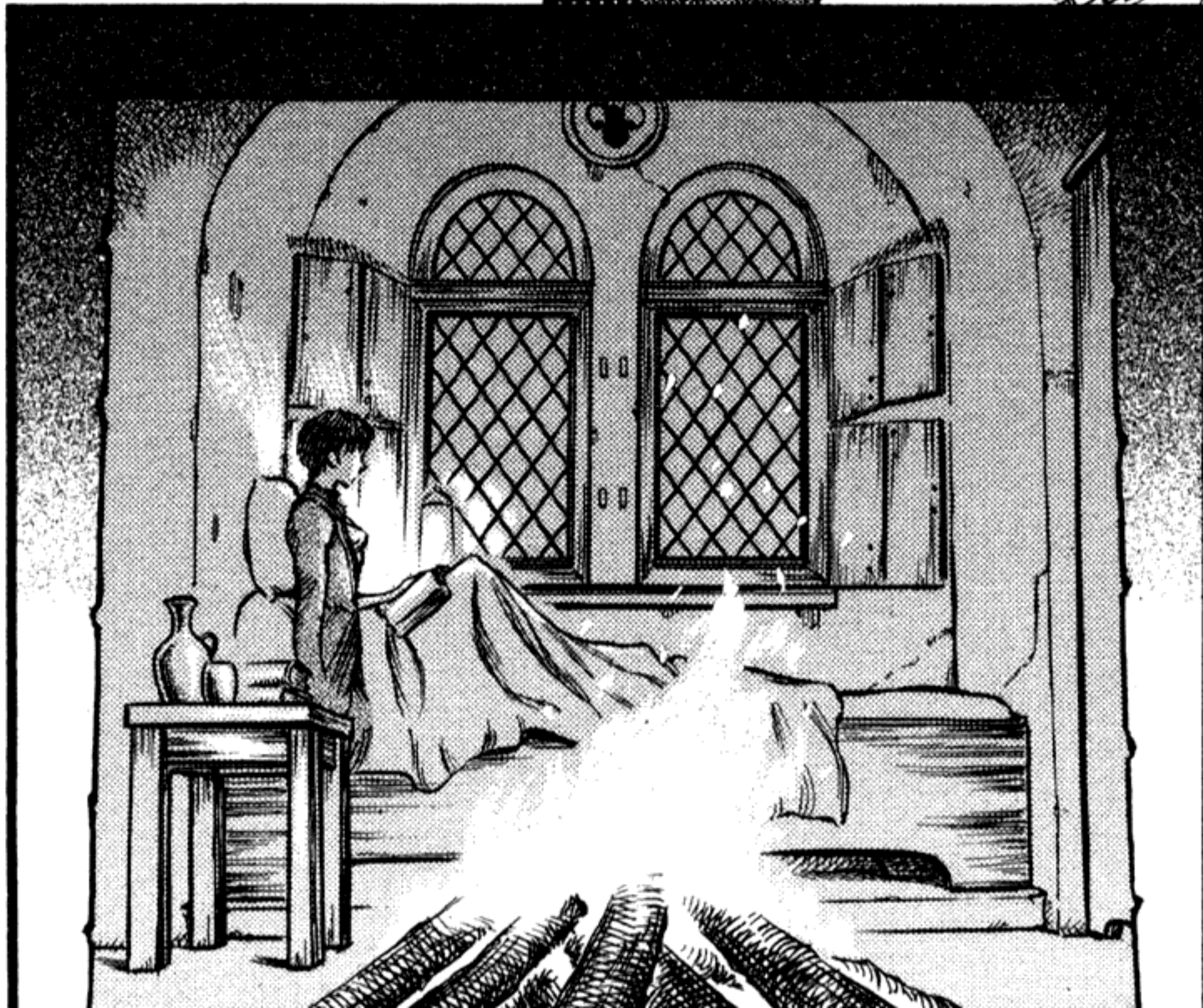
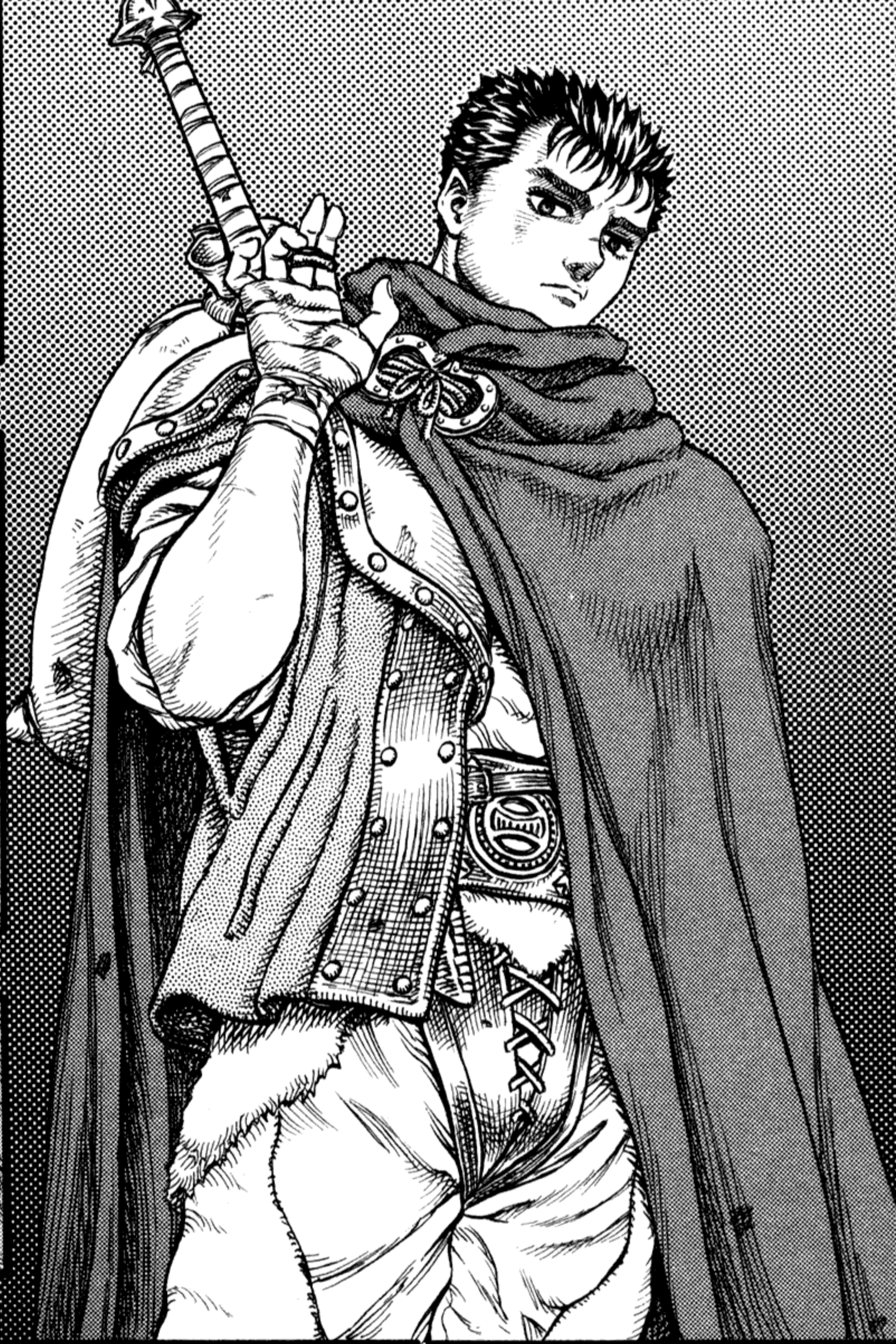
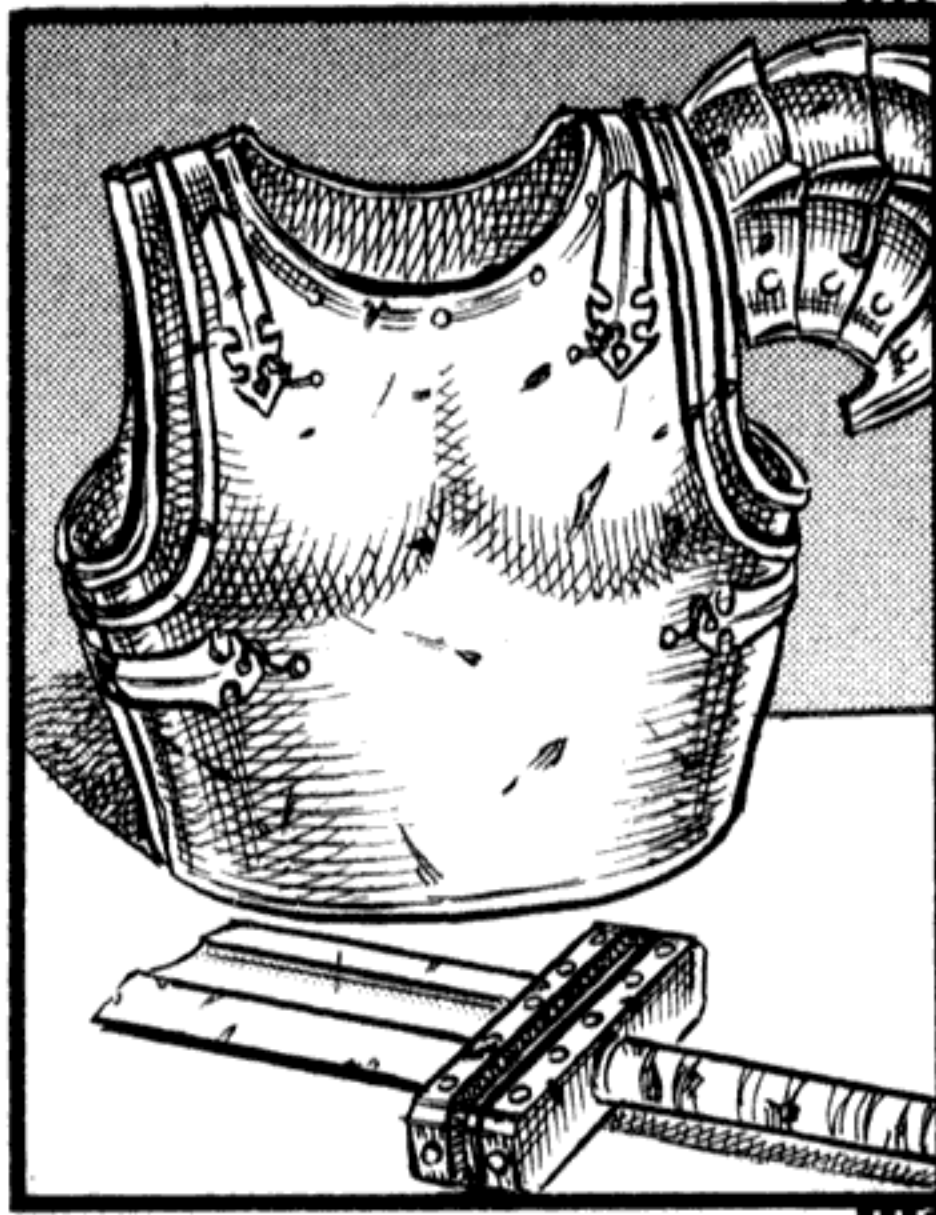
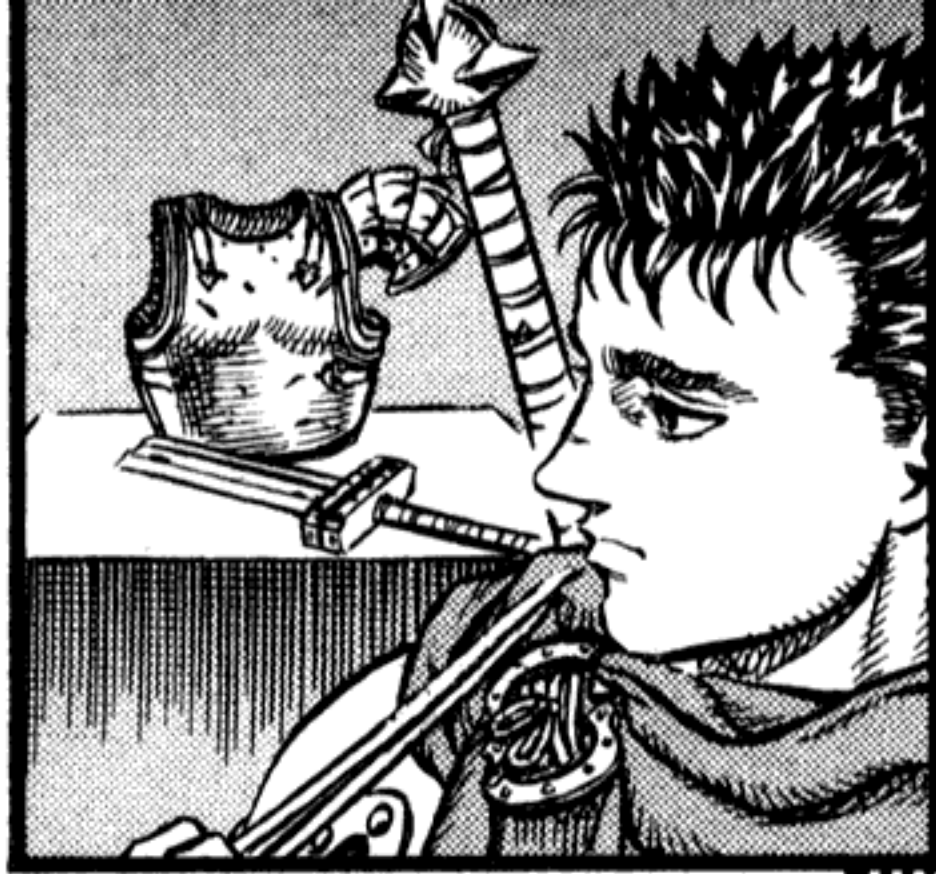


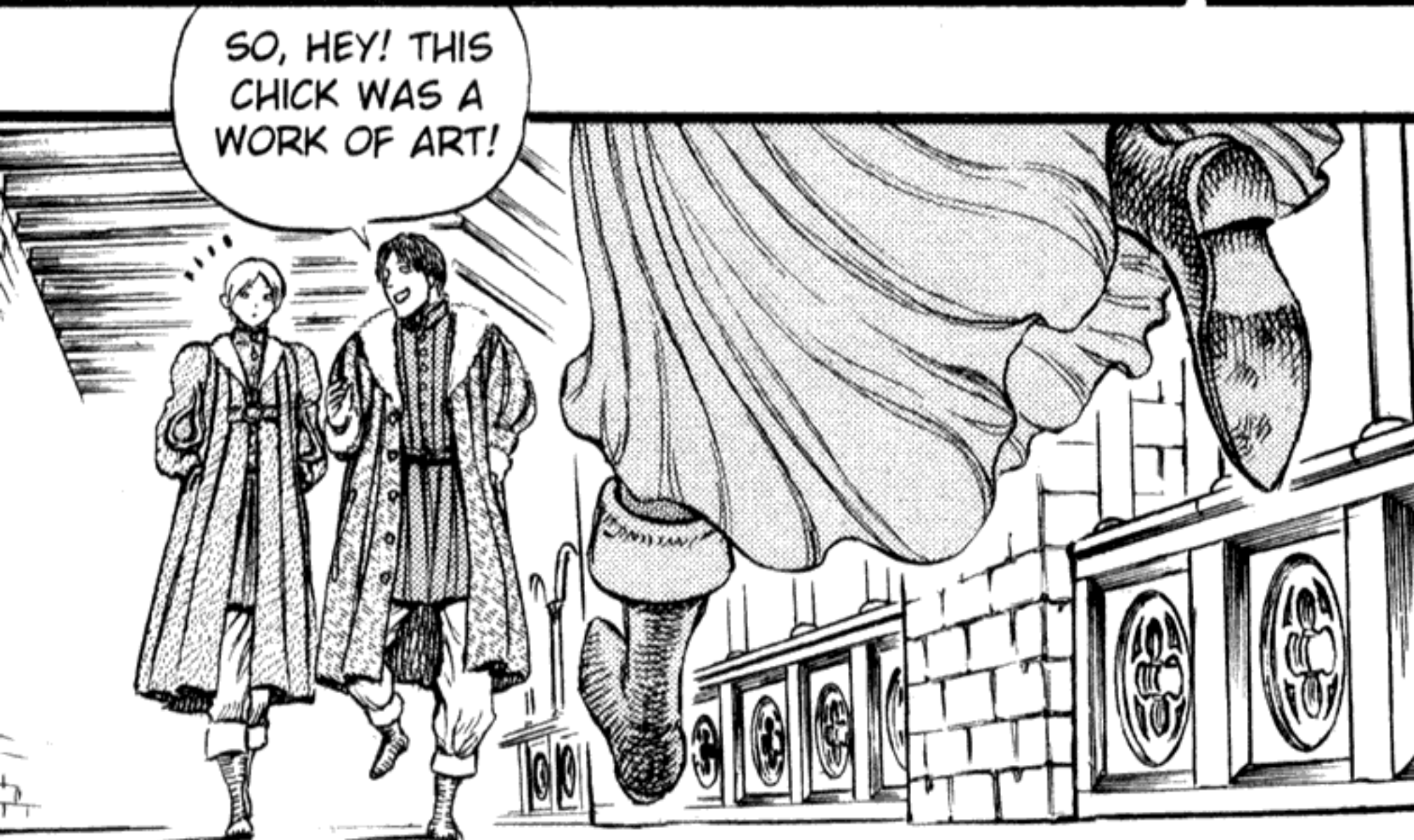


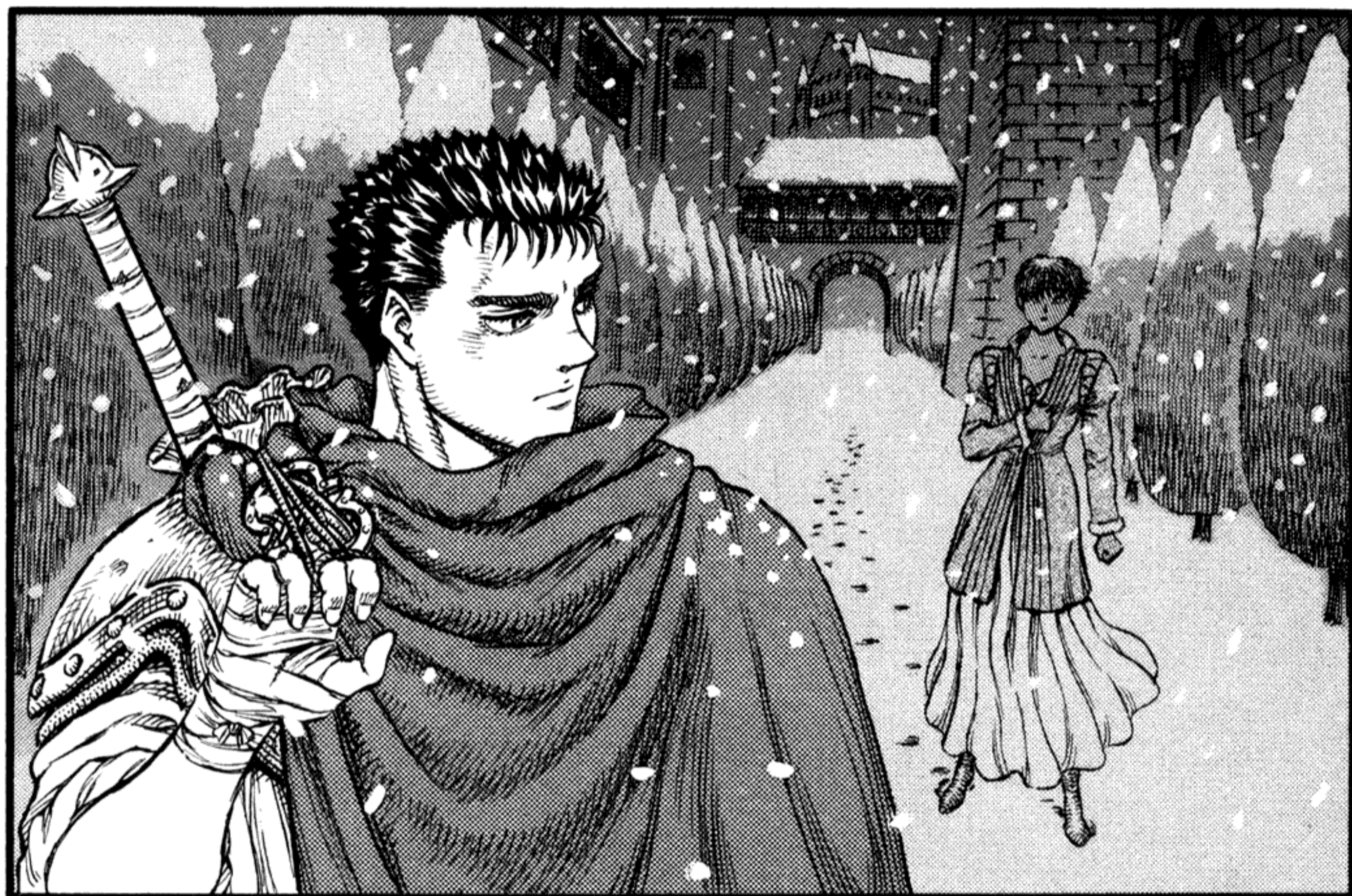




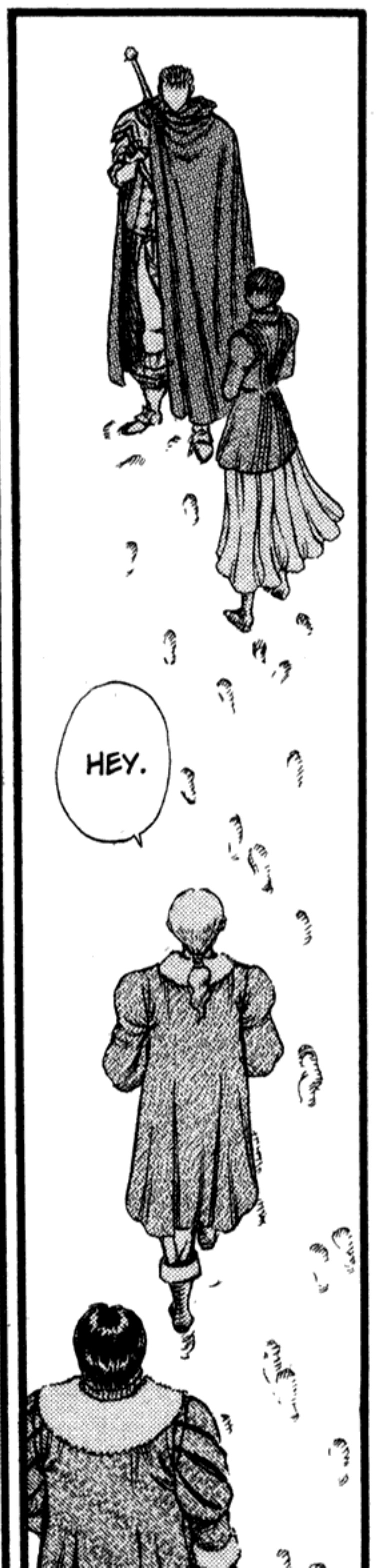
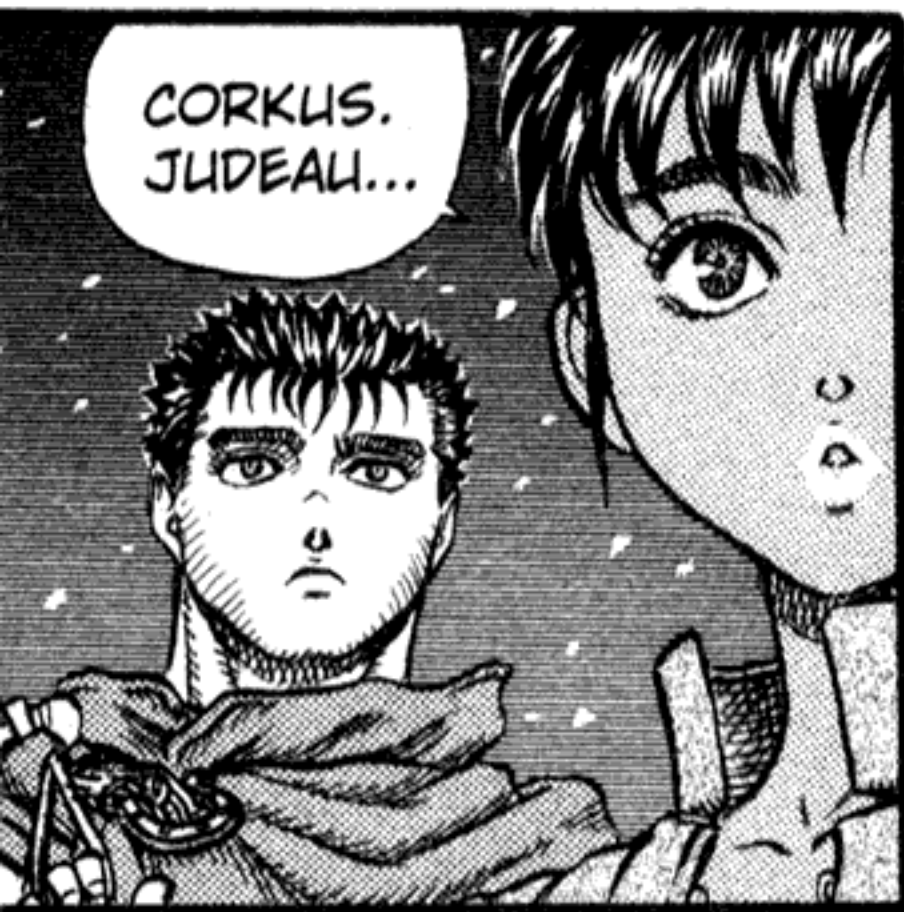
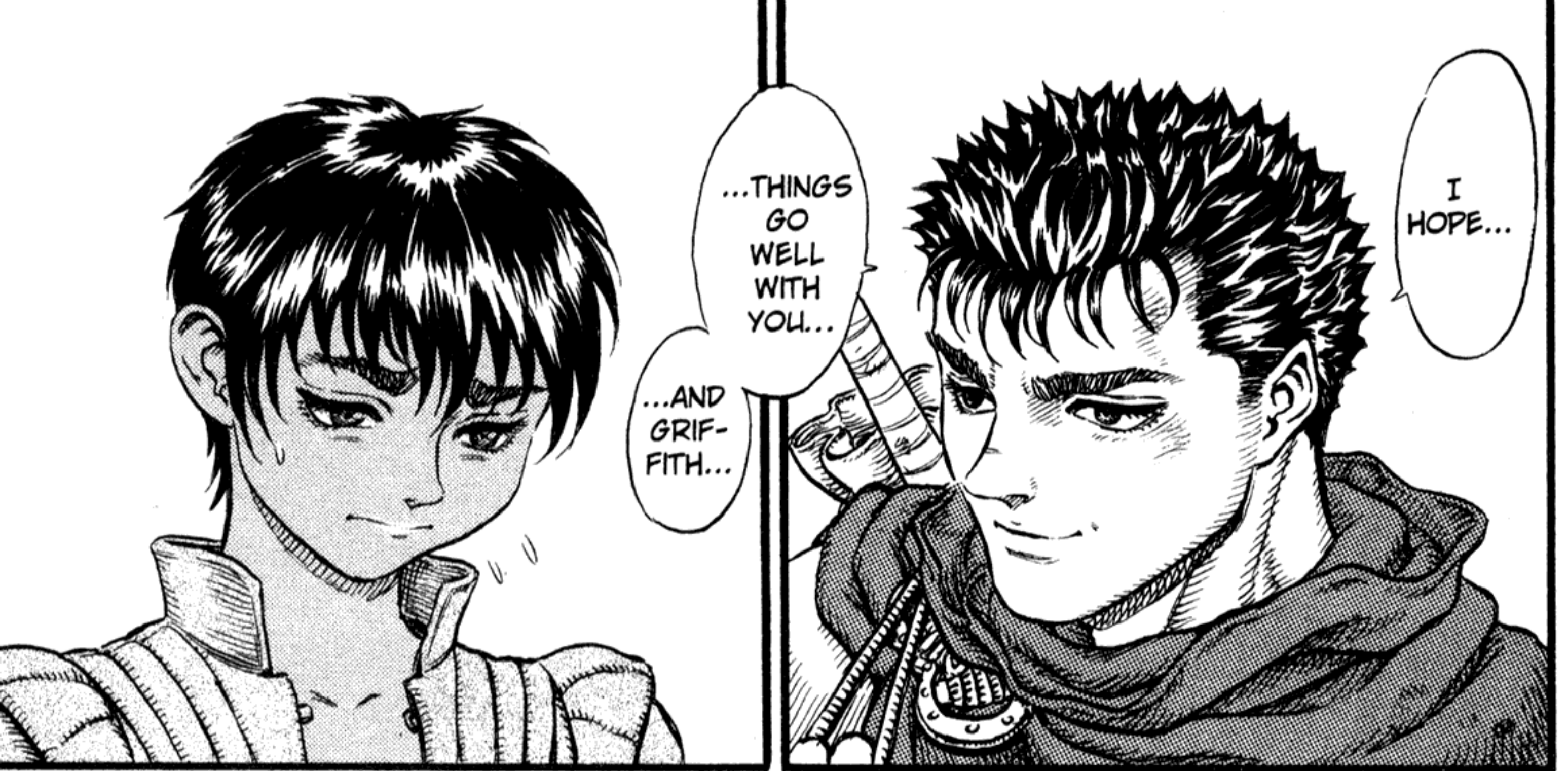




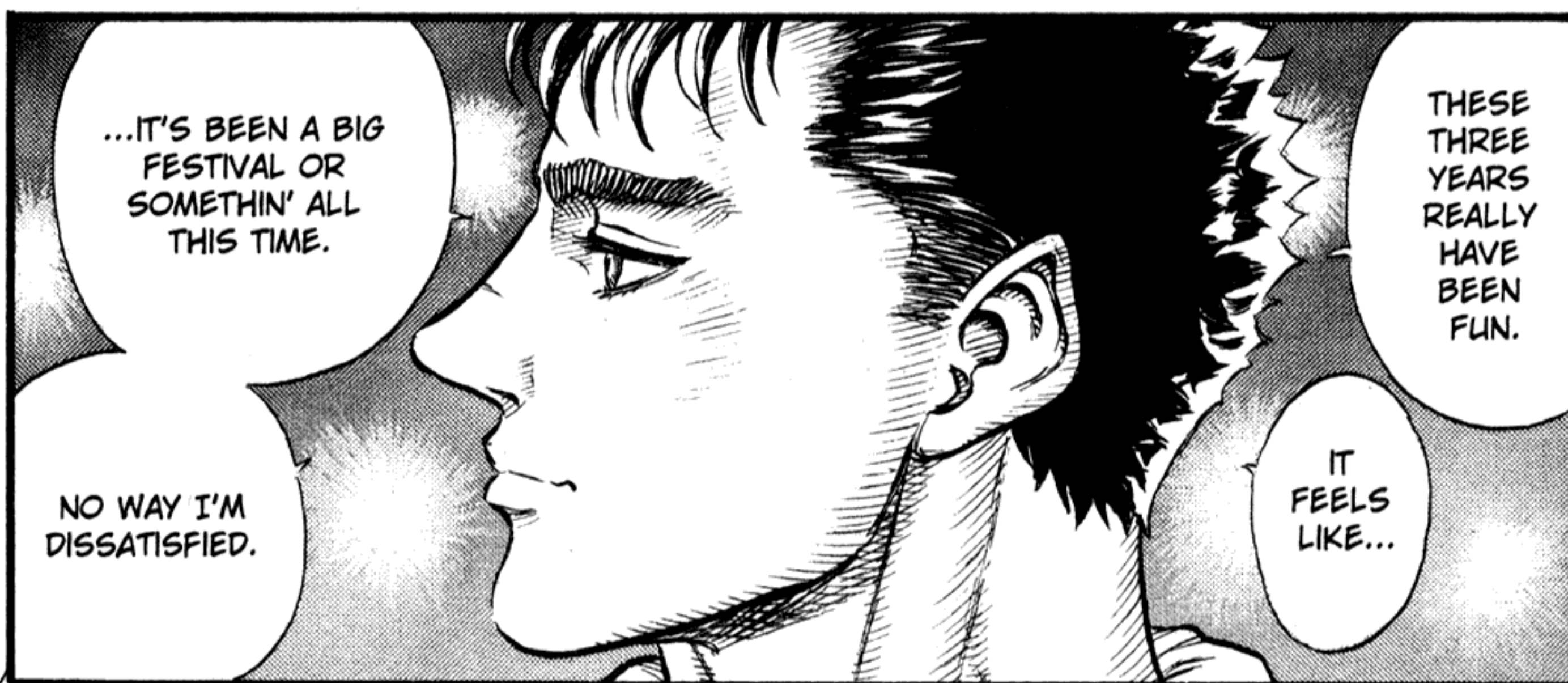
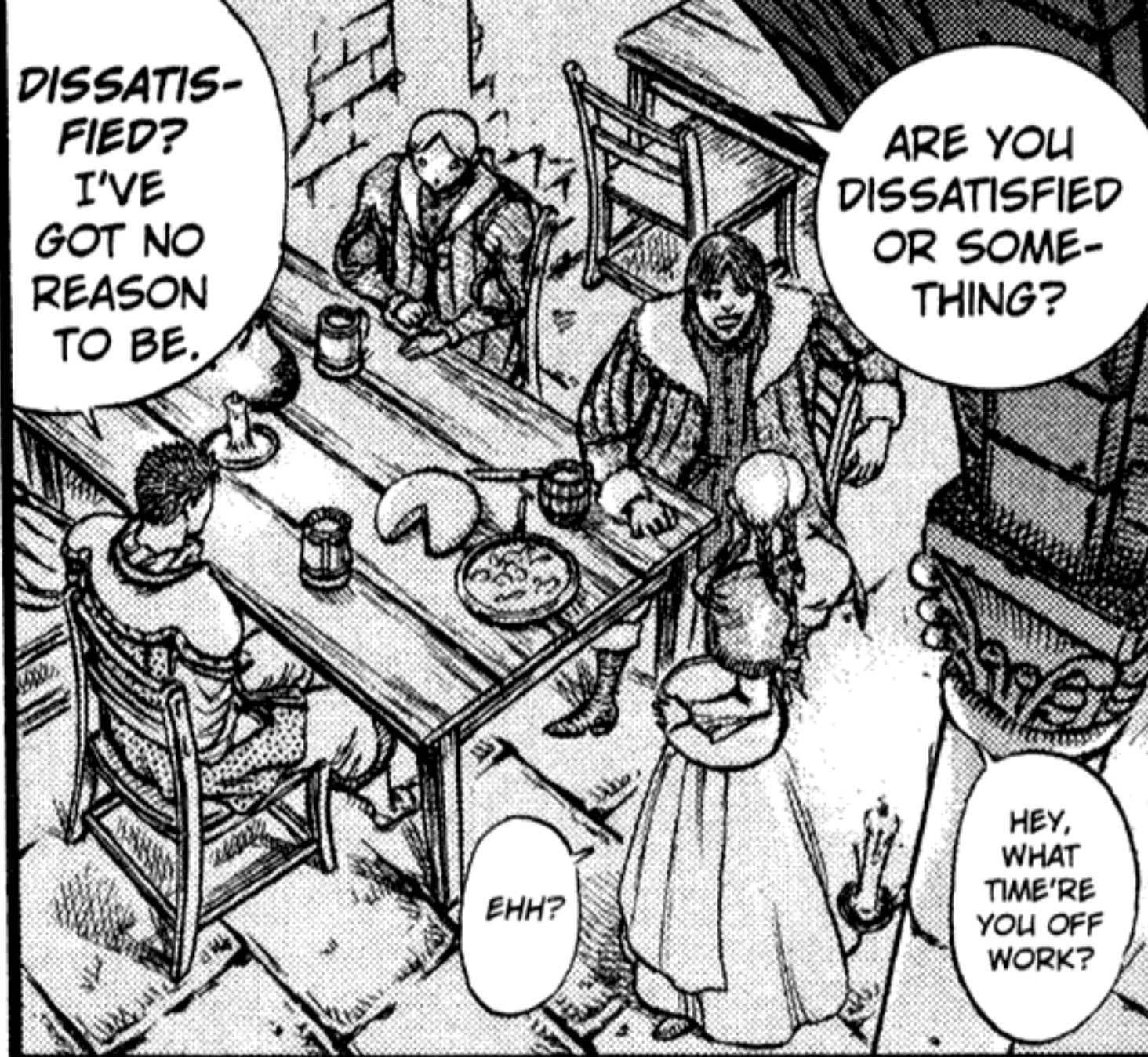


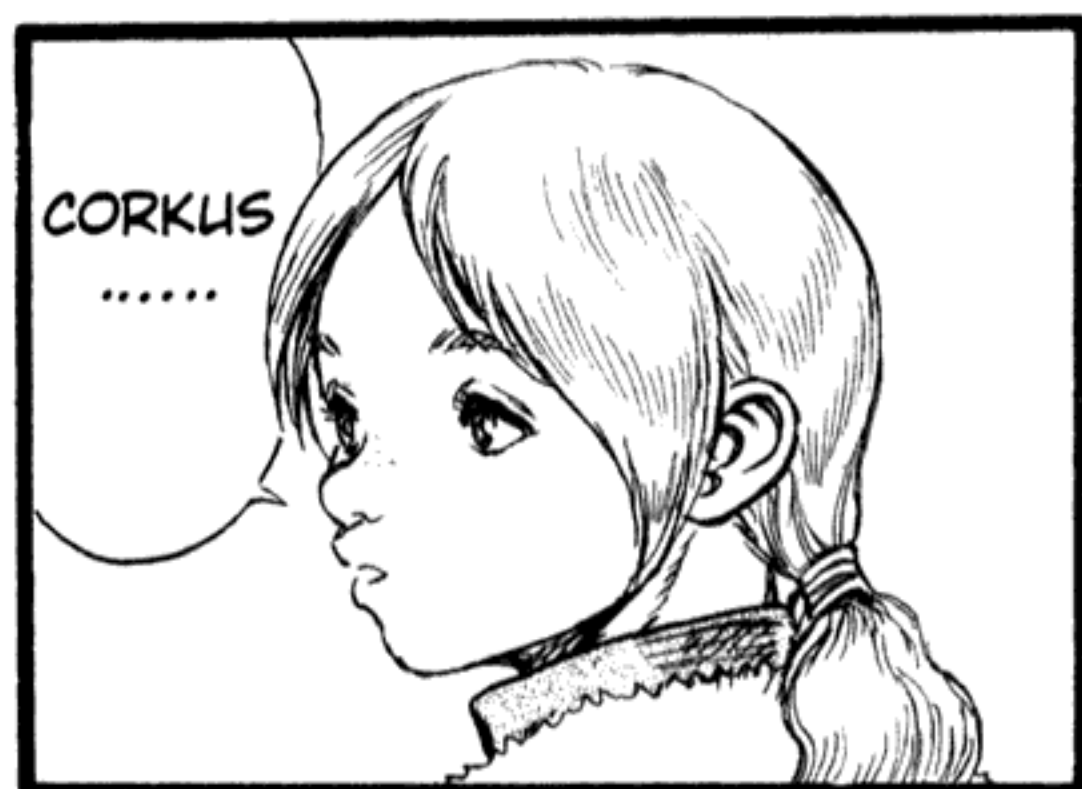
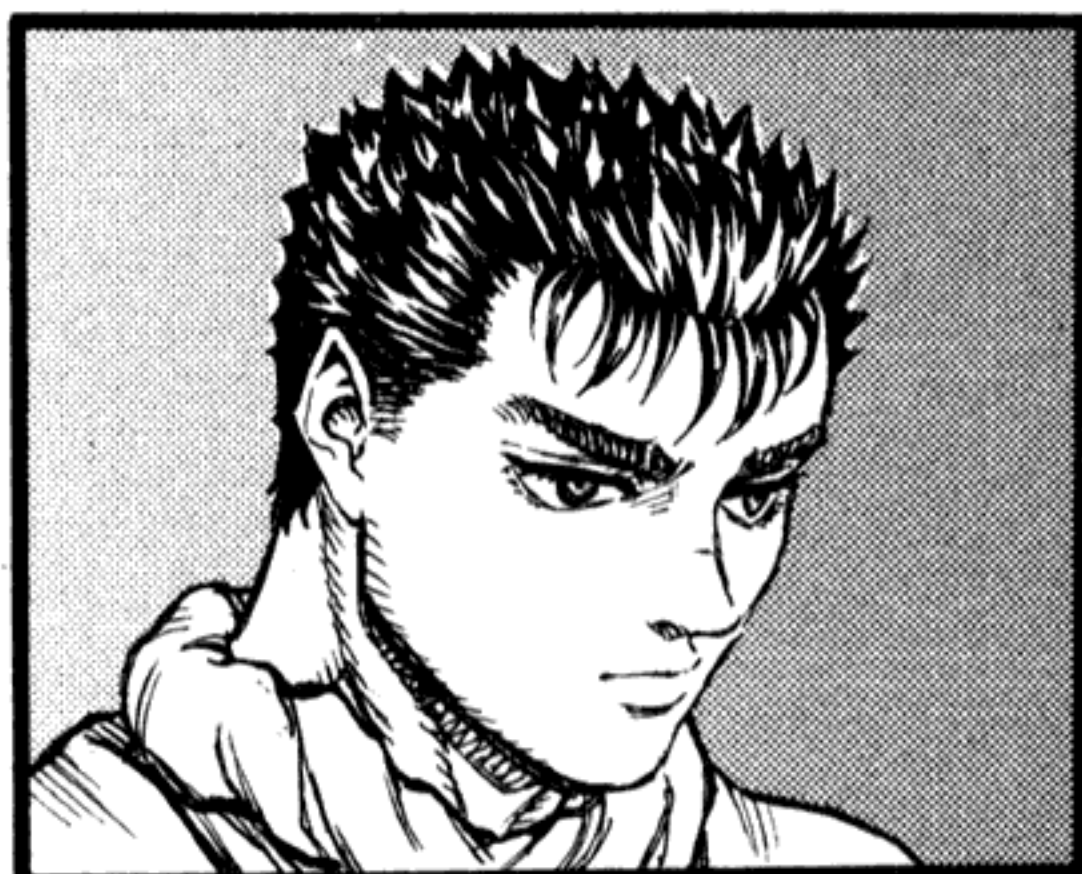
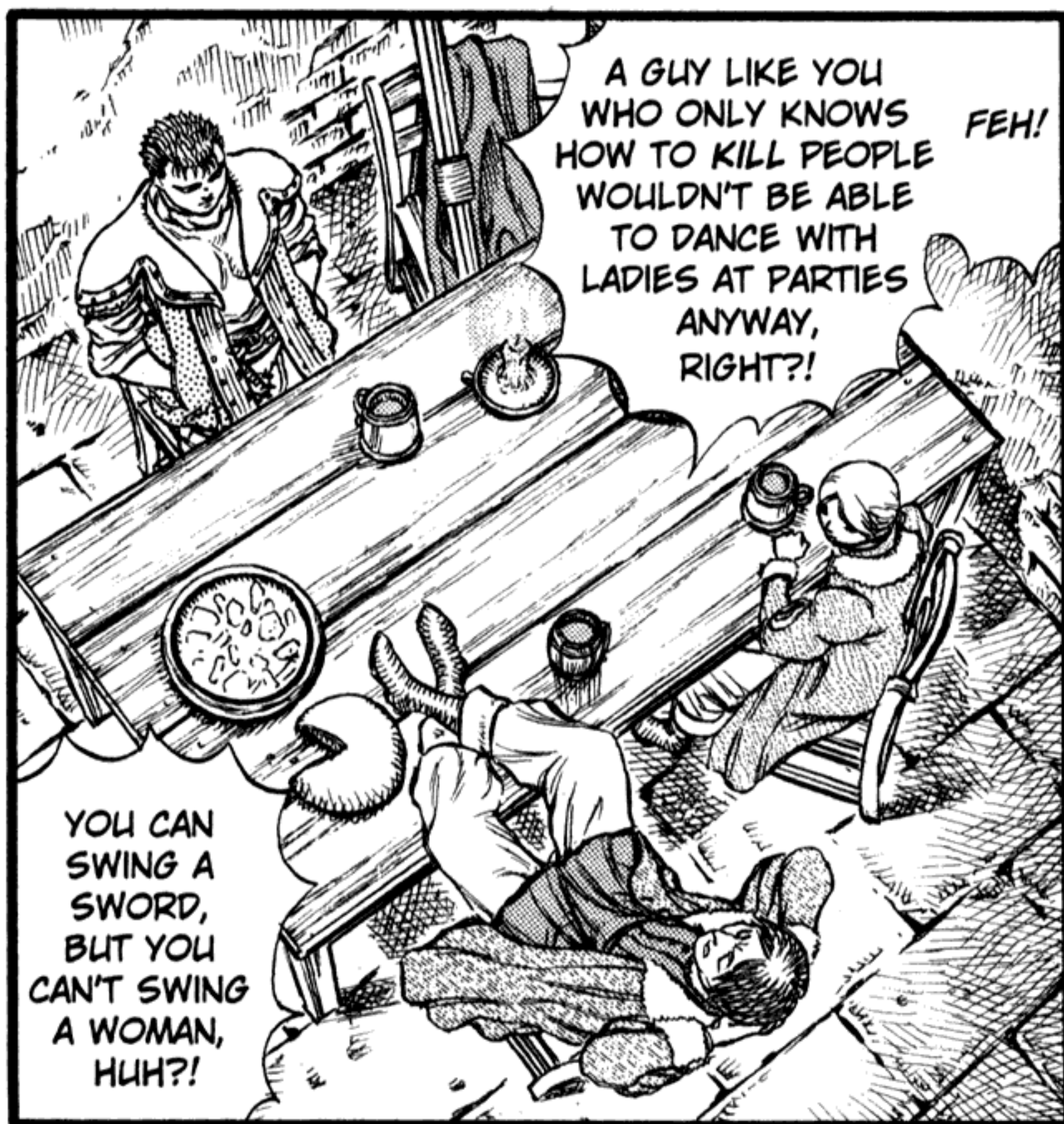
















...LIKE THAT?



YOU DON'T HAVE SOMETHING...



I CAN'T STAND TO HANG WITH THE BIG BABY ANYMORE!

JUDEAU, I'M DONE FOR THE NIGHT.

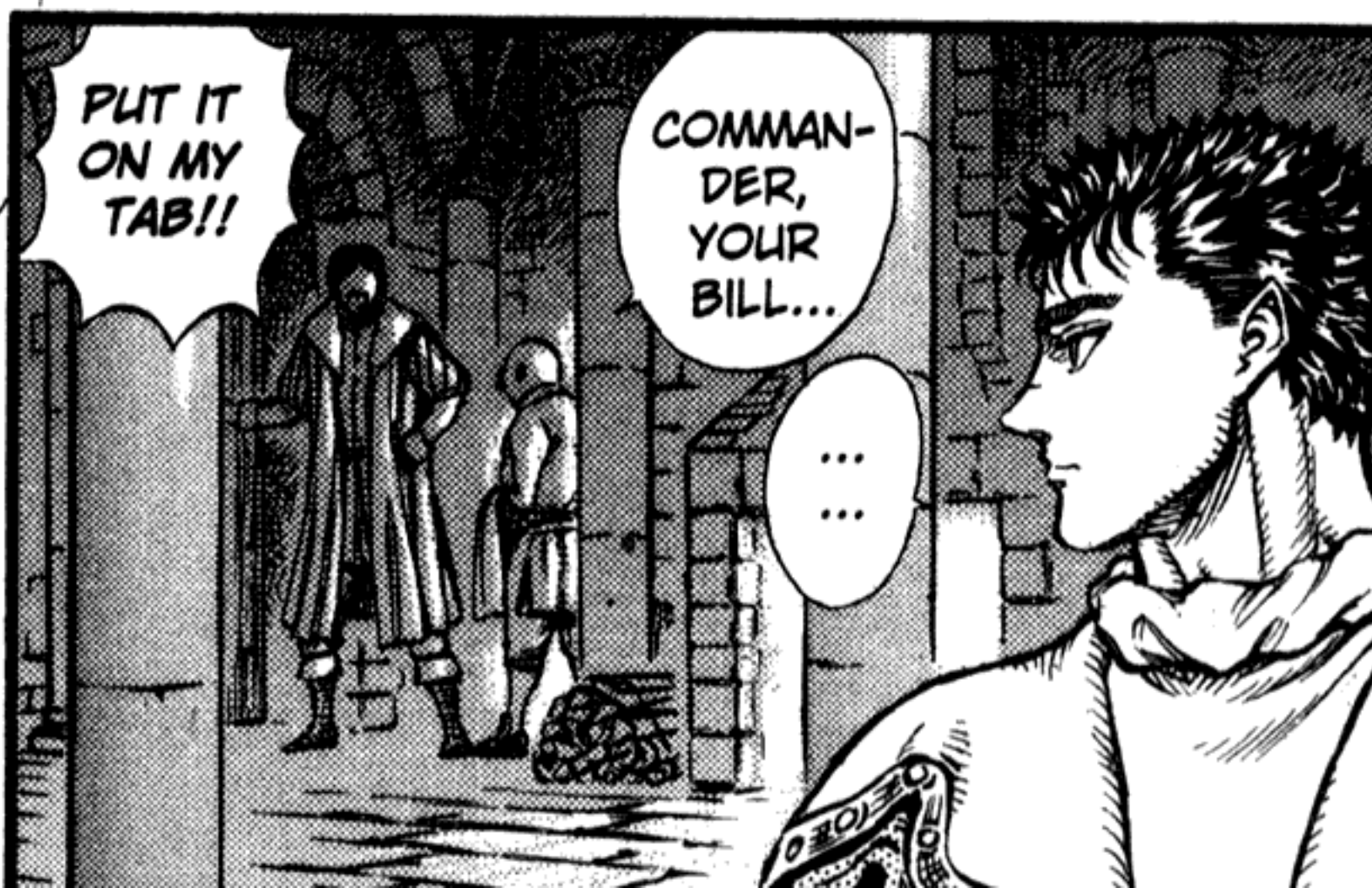


KEH!

THE HELL WITH THIS!



...IN SPITE OF ALL THAT, HE USED TO LEAD A BAND OF THIEVES.



PUT IT ON MY TAB!!

COMMANDER, YOUR BILL...

...



WHILE
NO BIG
DEAL...

MAYBE
THERE WAS
SOMETHING HE
TOO WANTED
TO WIN FOR
HIMSELF.

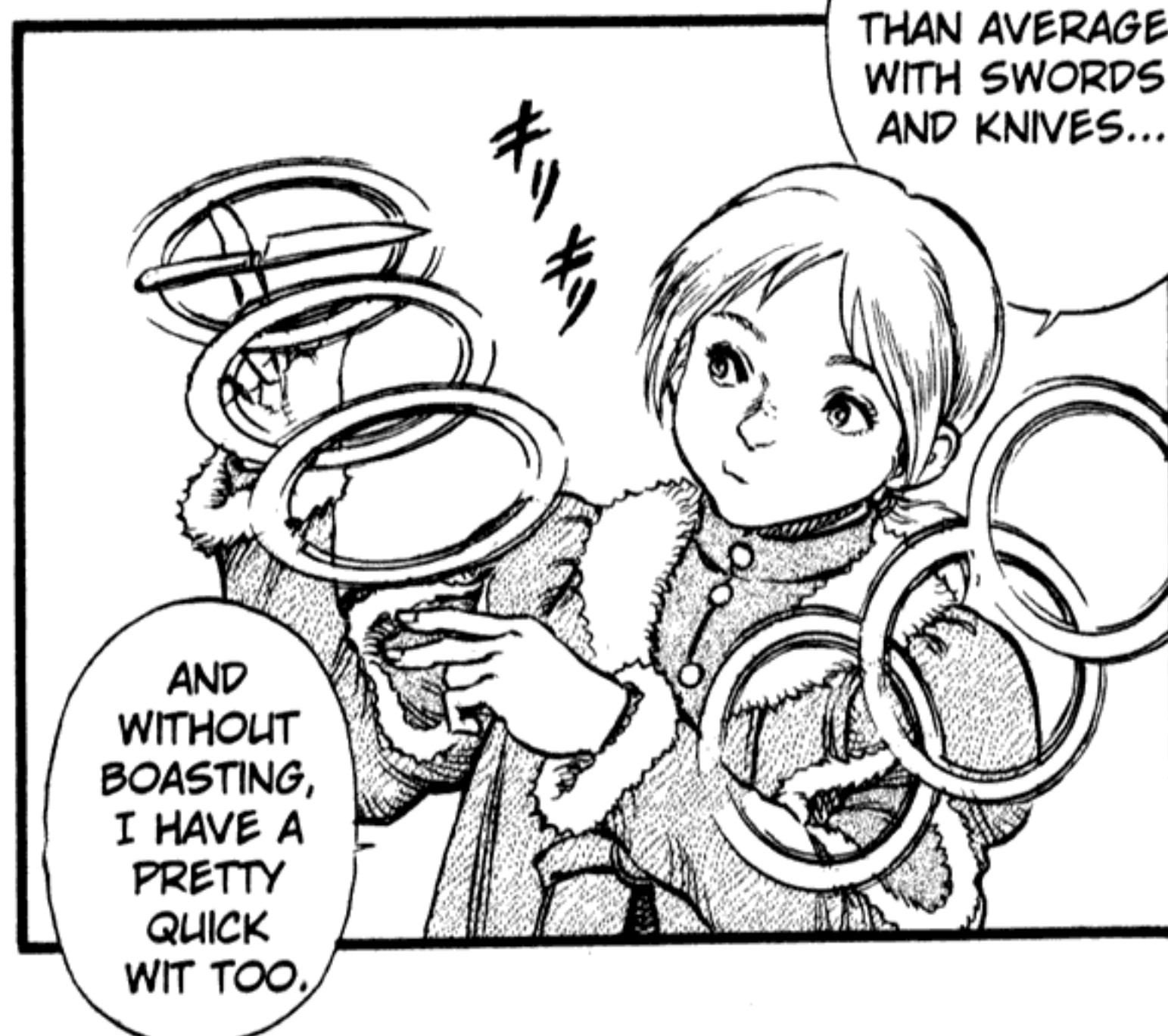


.....
.....



WELL, IT WAS
ONLY ABOUT
TEN MEN, AND TIMES
WERE TOUGH. THEY
CROSSED THE BAND
OF THE HAWK
AND SURE
ENOUGH
GOT PUT
IN THEIR
PLACE.

EVER SINCE
THEN, HE'S
BEEN ONE
OF OURS.



I'M BETTER
THAN AVERAGE
WITH SWORDS
AND KNIVES...

AND
WITHOUT
BOASTING,
I HAVE A
PRETTY
QUICK
WIT TOO.



...I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN A
JACK
OF ALL
TRADES.

AS
FOR
ME...



BUT...

...I'VE
NEVER
BEEN THE
BEST AT
ANYTHING.





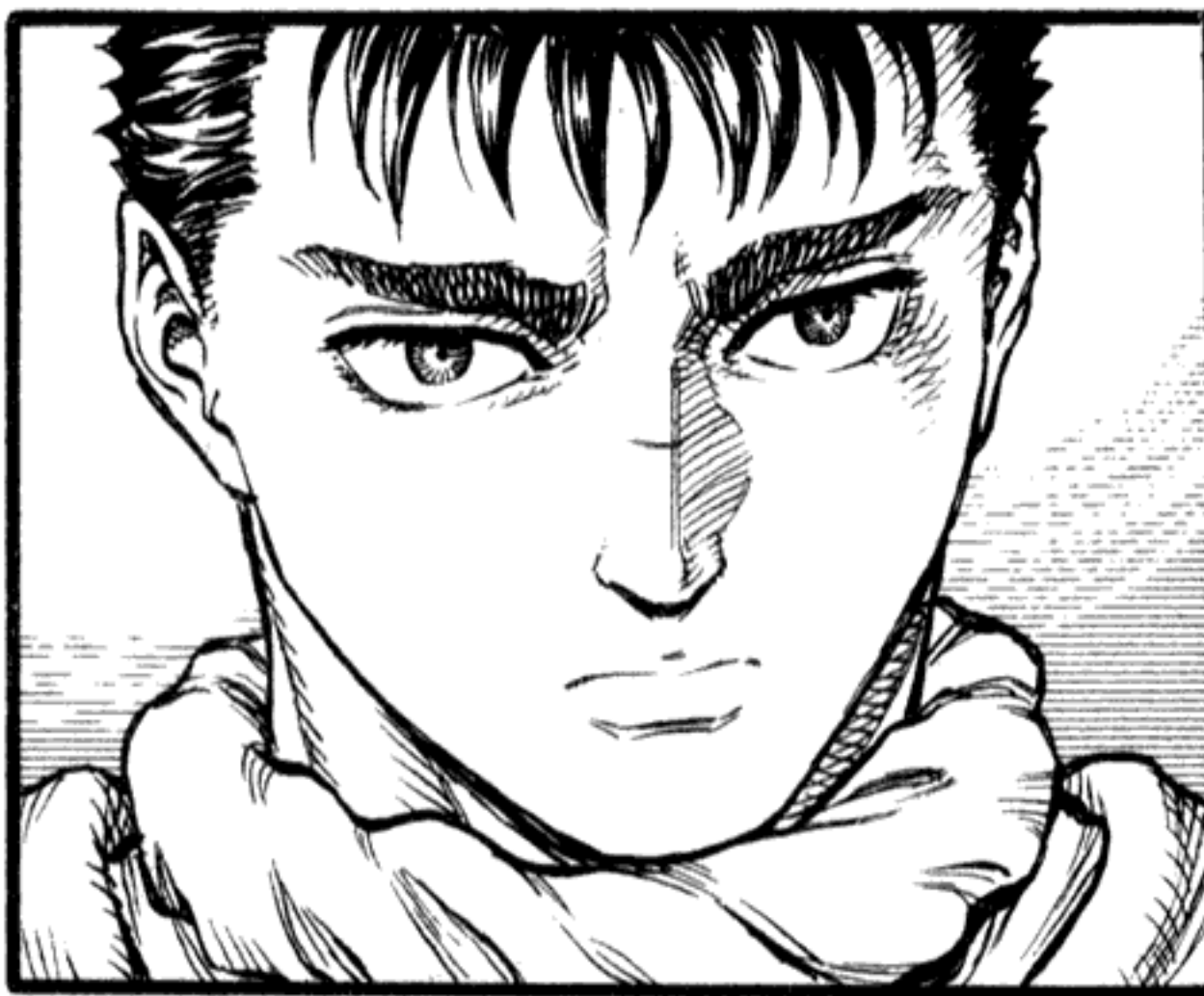
THERE'S
NOBODY
...

...WHO
NEVER
WANTED
SOME-
THING.



...IF I
COULDN'T
BE THE BEST,
I'D FLY IN THE
WAKE OF THE
ONE WHO SEEMS
THE BEST.

THAT'S
WHY I
DECIDED...



WELL,
FROM ONE
PERSPEC-
TIVE...

...THAT'S
NOT
ALL
TRUE.



I'M
PRETTY
HAPPY
WITH
THINGS...

...AND
MY OWN
SITUATION.



DON'T
GET ME
WRONG,
THOUGH.



...I
WONDER IF
SOME-
THING'S
WRONG?

...AND THE PROMISE
OF PEERAGE AND
KNIGHTHOOD DANGLING
BEFORE YOUR EYES,
ALL FOR SOME
VAGUE THING...

TO
SACRIFICE
YOUR STATUS
AS CAPTAIN
OF THE
RAIDERS
...

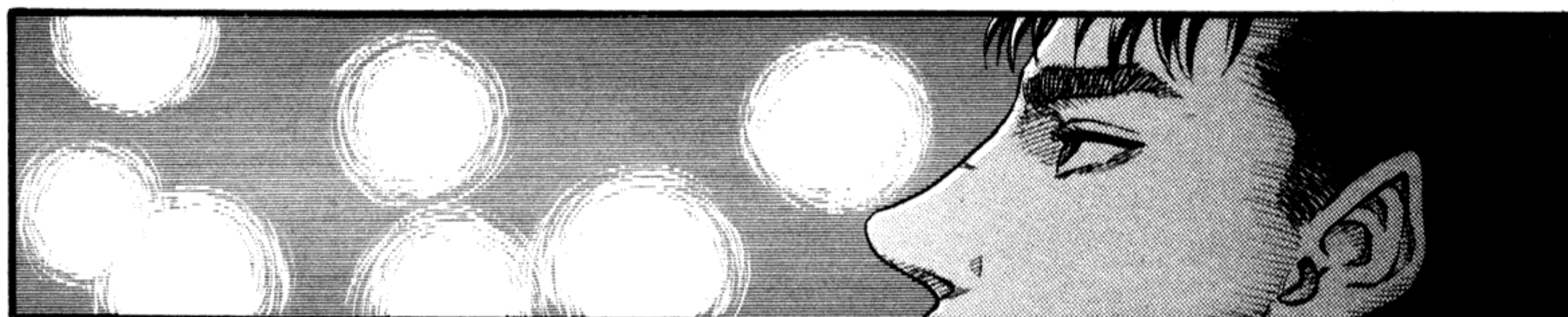


...I'M SURE
YOU COULD
SPEND YOUR
WHOLE LIFE
CHASING
ONE.

WIN
OR
LOSE...

DREAMS.

BUT
MAYBE THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
ALL MEN...



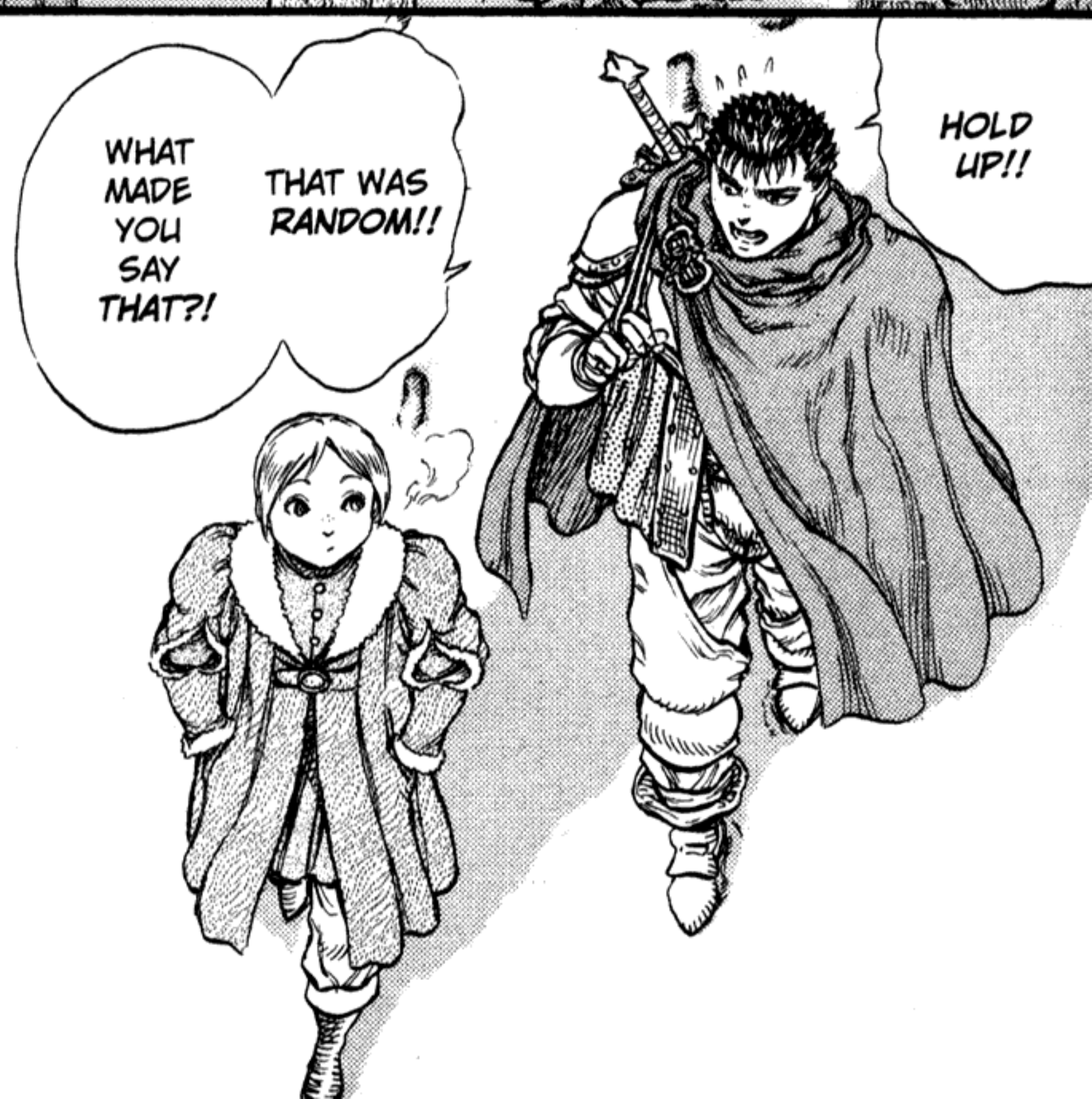
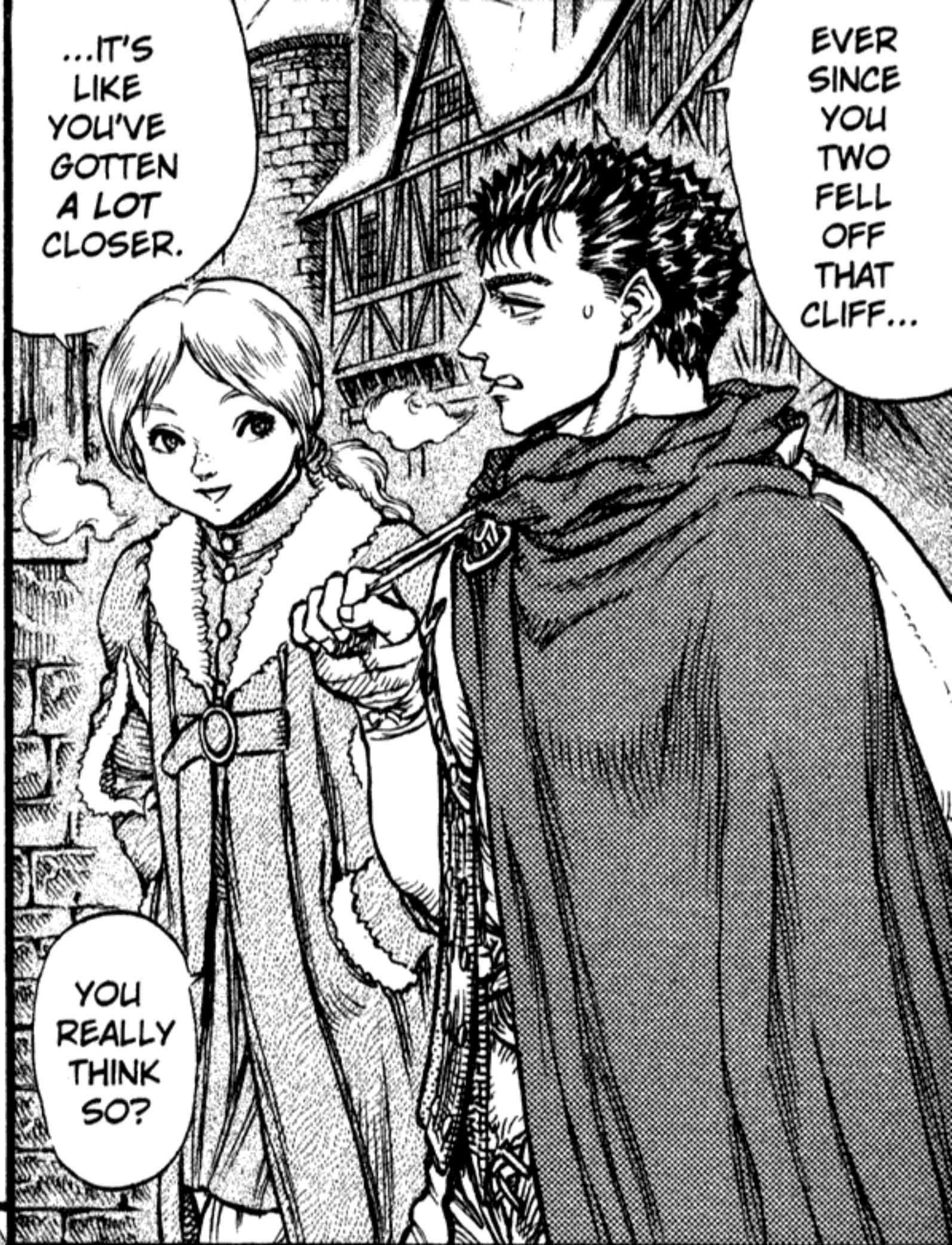
...I SAID
YOU'D FIND
A PLACE
TO BELONG
HERE.

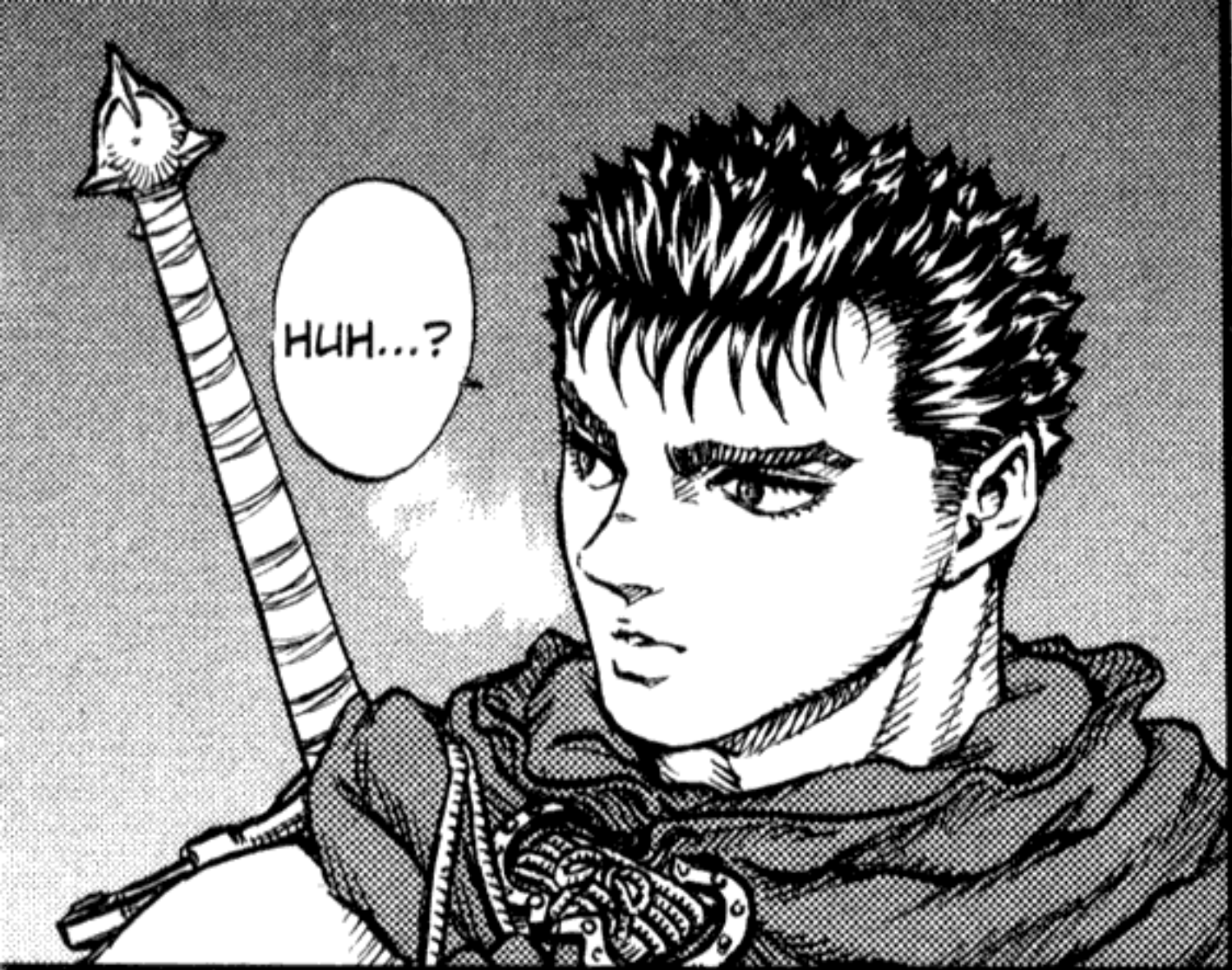
THAT
DAY,
THREE
YEARS
AGO...



...I
WAS
WRONG.

I
GUESS...





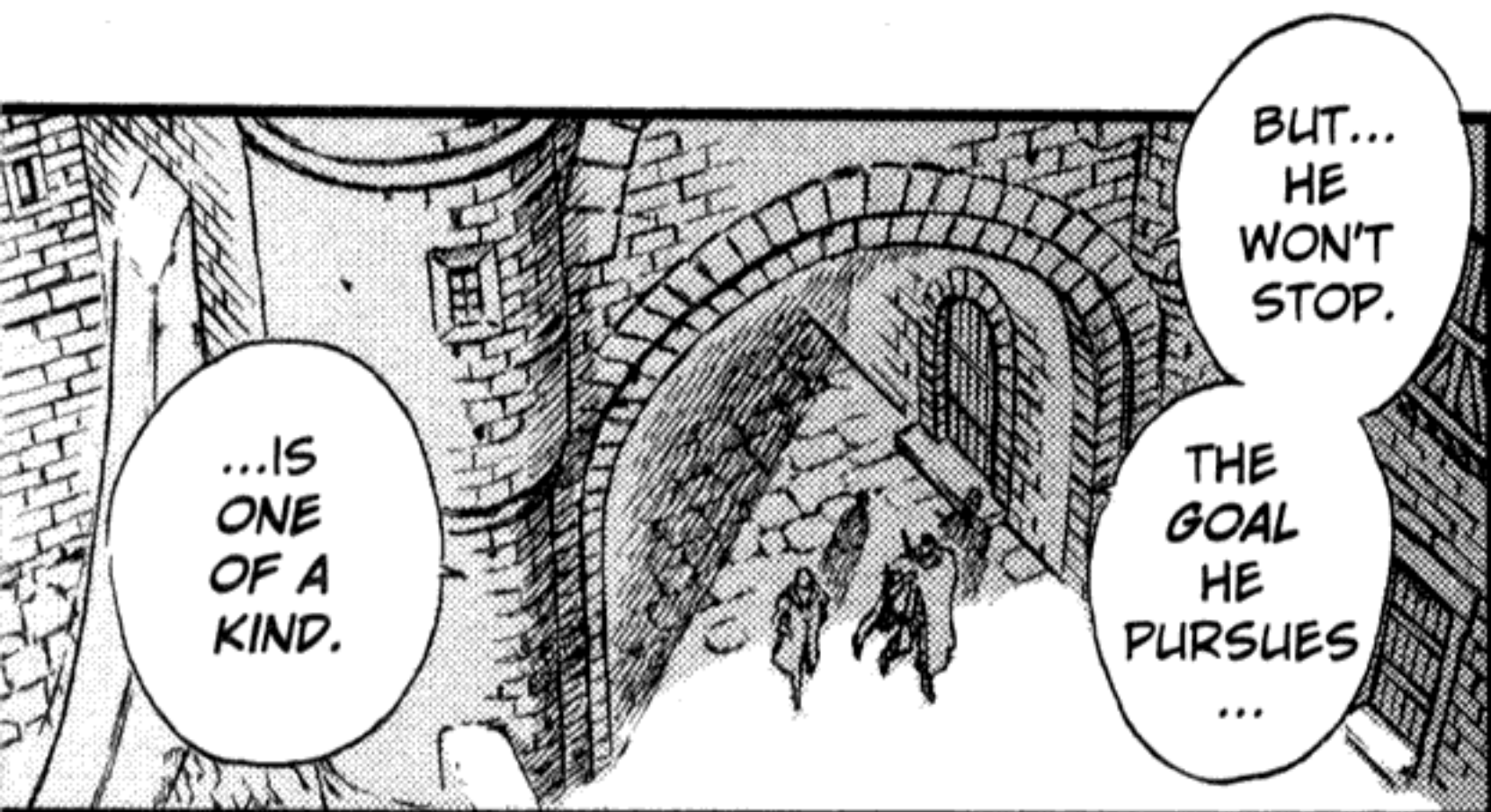
HUH...?



...CAN'T
BE WITH
GRIFFITH.

SHE...
CASCA...

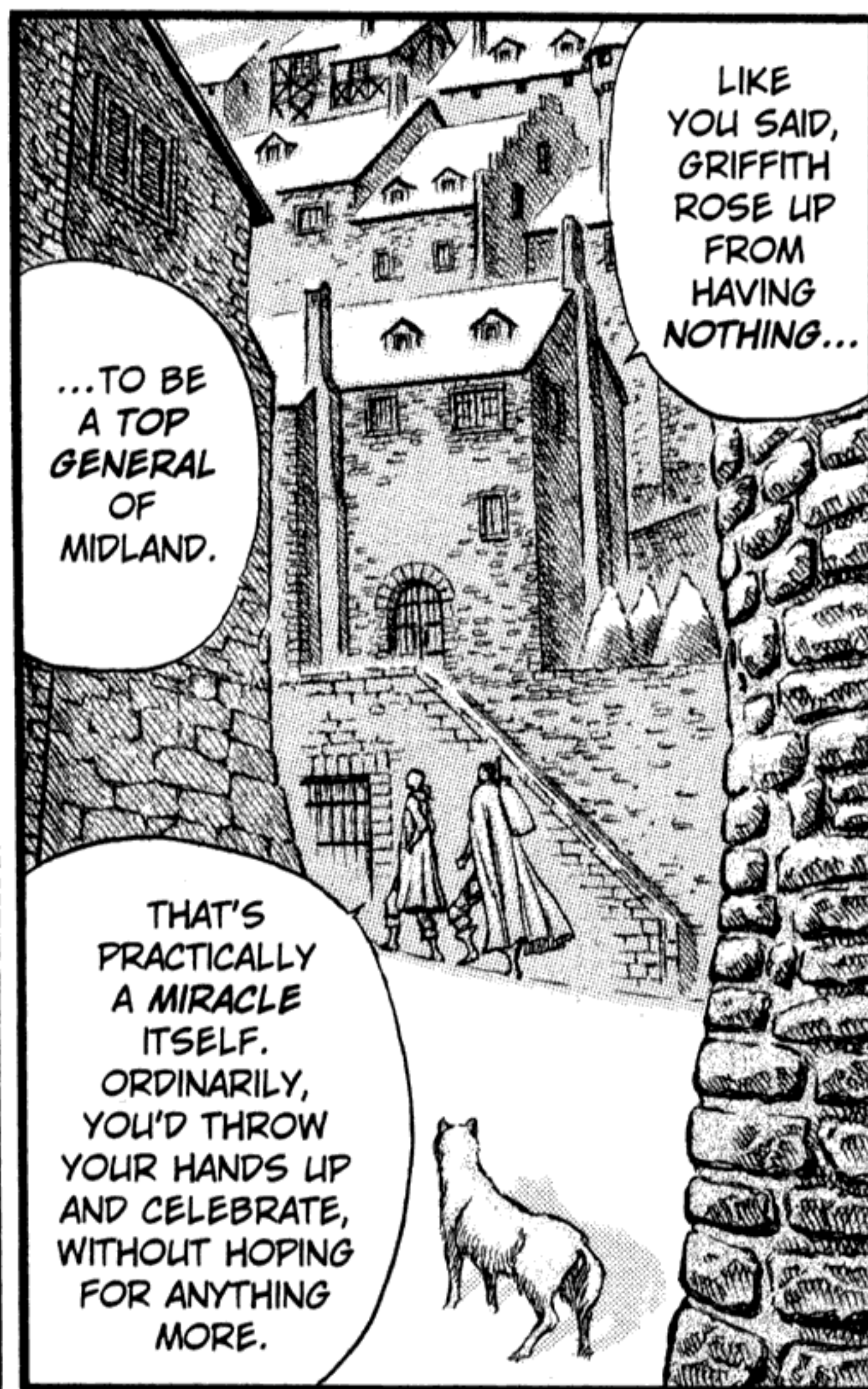
CHANCES
ARE...



...IS
ONE
OF A
KIND.

BUT...
HE
WON'T
STOP.

THE
GOAL
HE
PURSUES
...



LIKE
YOU SAID,
GRIFFITH
ROSE UP
FROM
HAVING
NOTHING...

...TO BE
A TOP
GENERAL
OF
MIDLAND.

THAT'S
PRACTICALLY
A MIRACLE
ITSELF.
ORDINARILY,
YOU'D THROW
YOUR HANDS UP
AND CELEBRATE,
WITHOUT HOPING
FOR ANYTHING
MORE.



IN THAT CASE, EVEN
GRIFFITH WON'T HAVE
ANY OPPORTUNITIES
TO SHINE
MILITARILY.

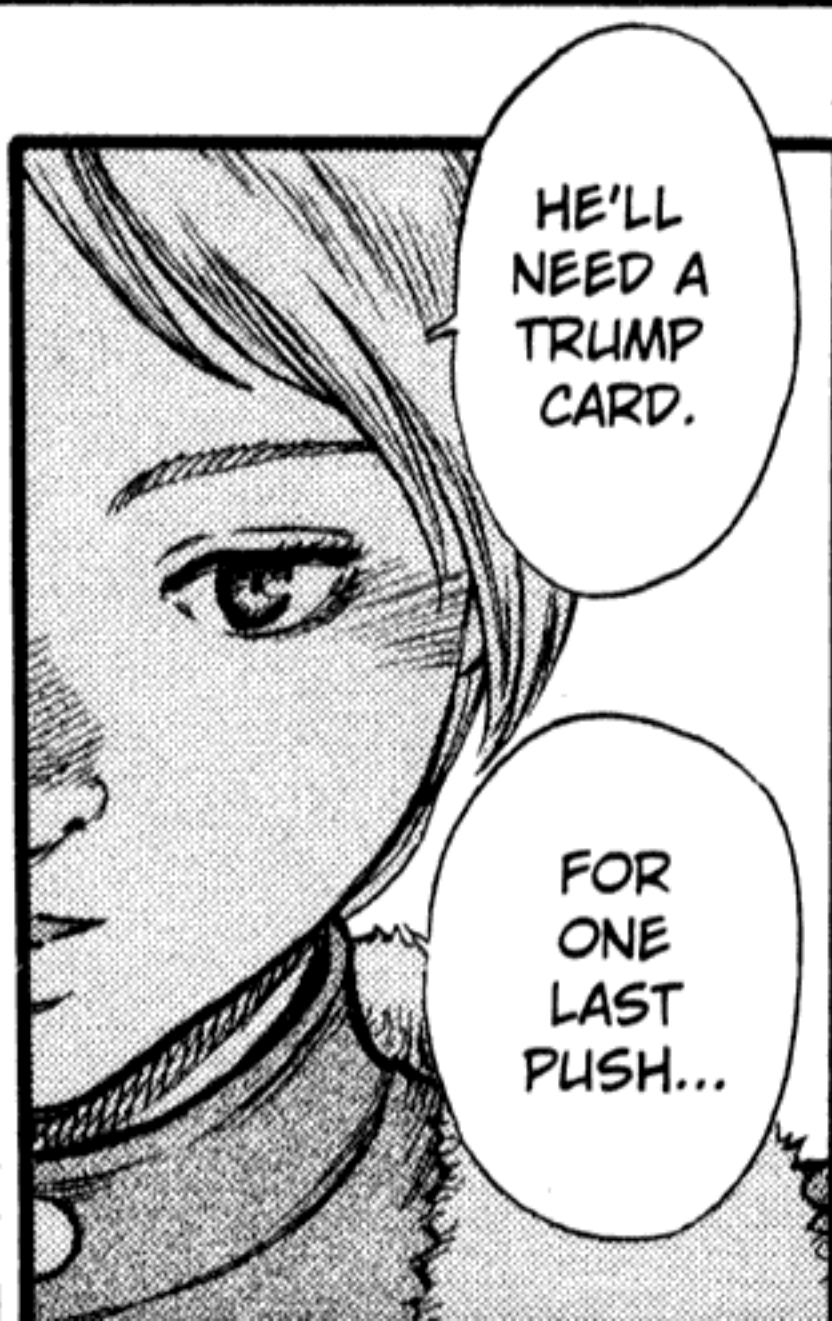
THEY
SAY THE
KINGDOM
PROBABLY
WON'T SEE
WAR FOR
SOME
TIME.

HIS
CHANCES
FOR PRO-
MOTION
WILL BE
SLIM.



DON'T
YOU
GET
IT?

...
...



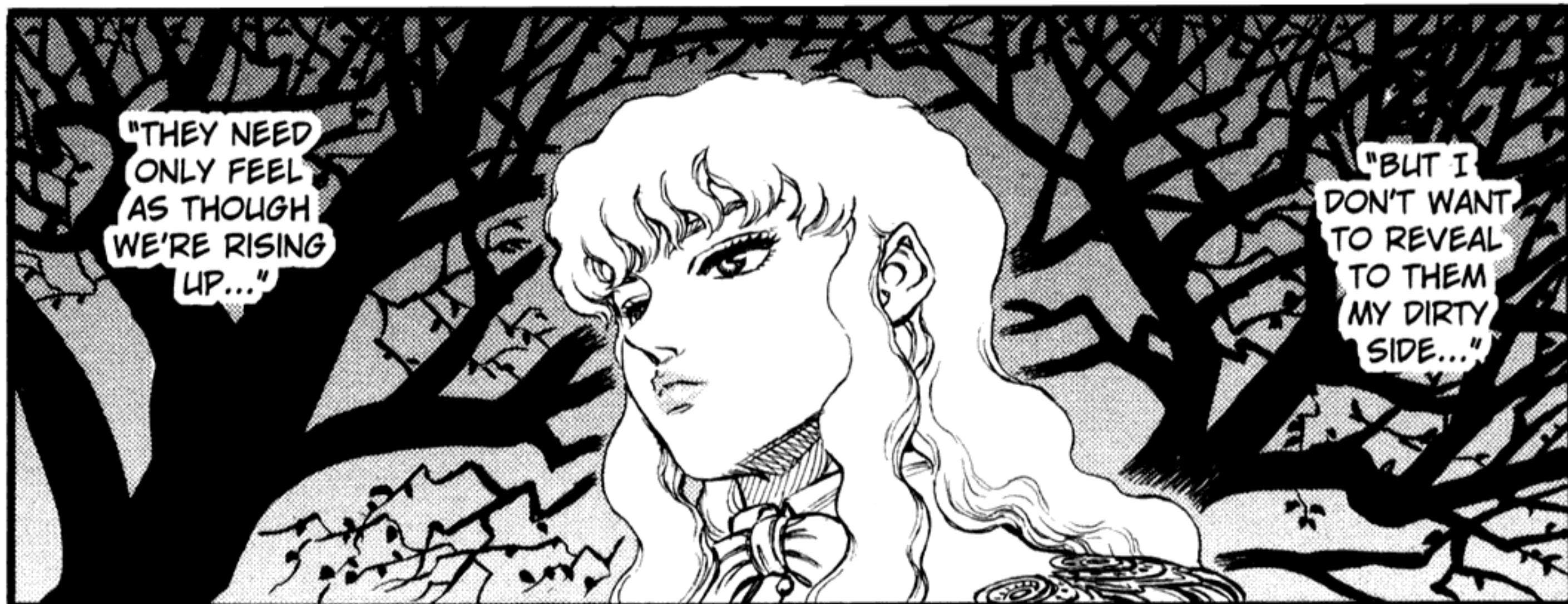
HE'LL
NEED A
TRUMP
CARD.

FOR
ONE
LAST
PUSH...



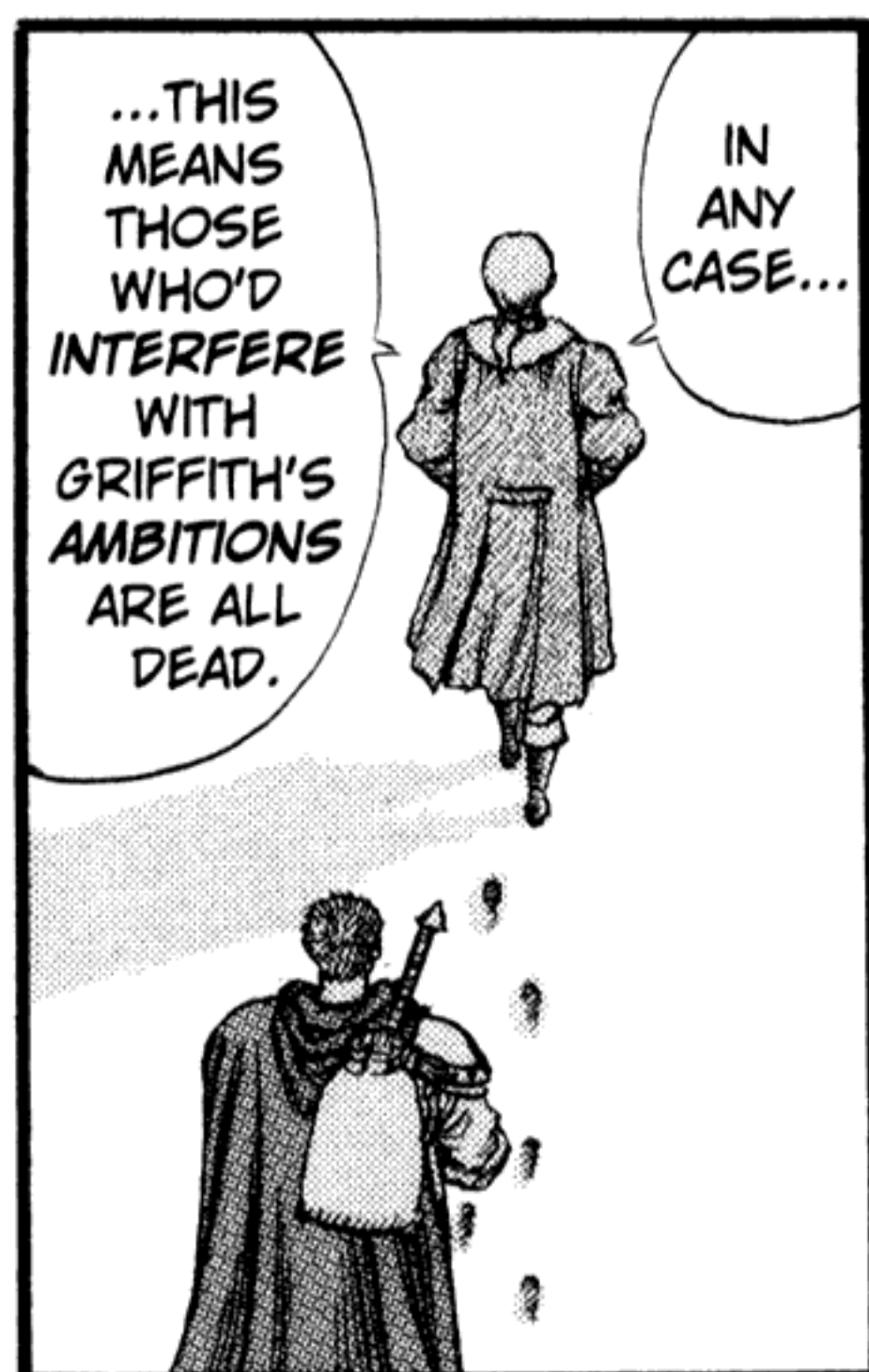
THERE'S
NOTHING
BEYOND
THAT.

EVEN IF
HE'S A
GENERAL,
HE'S STILL
A SOLDIER,
AFTER
ALL.



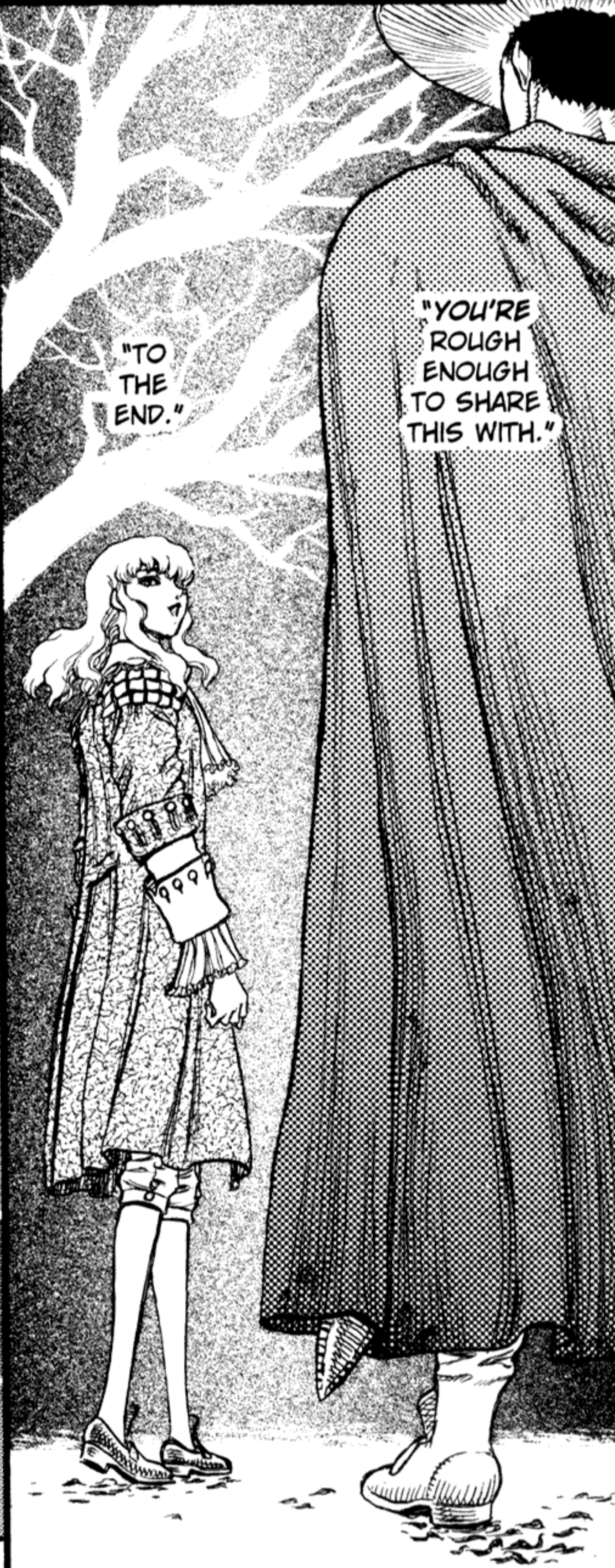
"THEY NEED
ONLY FEEL
AS THOUGH
WE'RE RISING
UP..."

"BUT I
DON'T WANT
TO REVEAL
TO THEM
MY DIRTY
SIDE..."



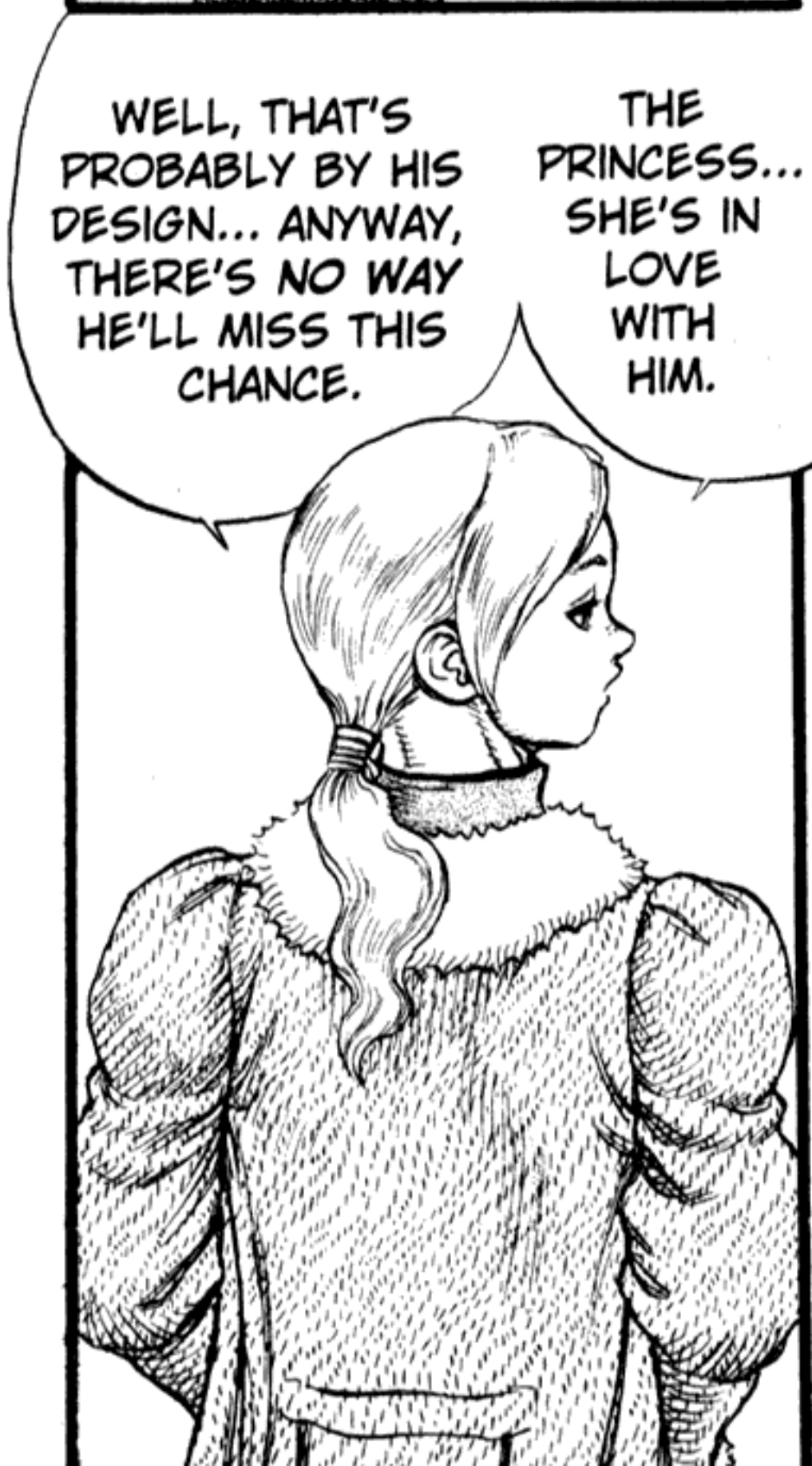
...THIS
MEANS
THOSE
WHO'D
INTERFERE
WITH
GRIFFITH'S
AMBITIONS
ARE ALL
DEAD.

IN
ANY
CASE...



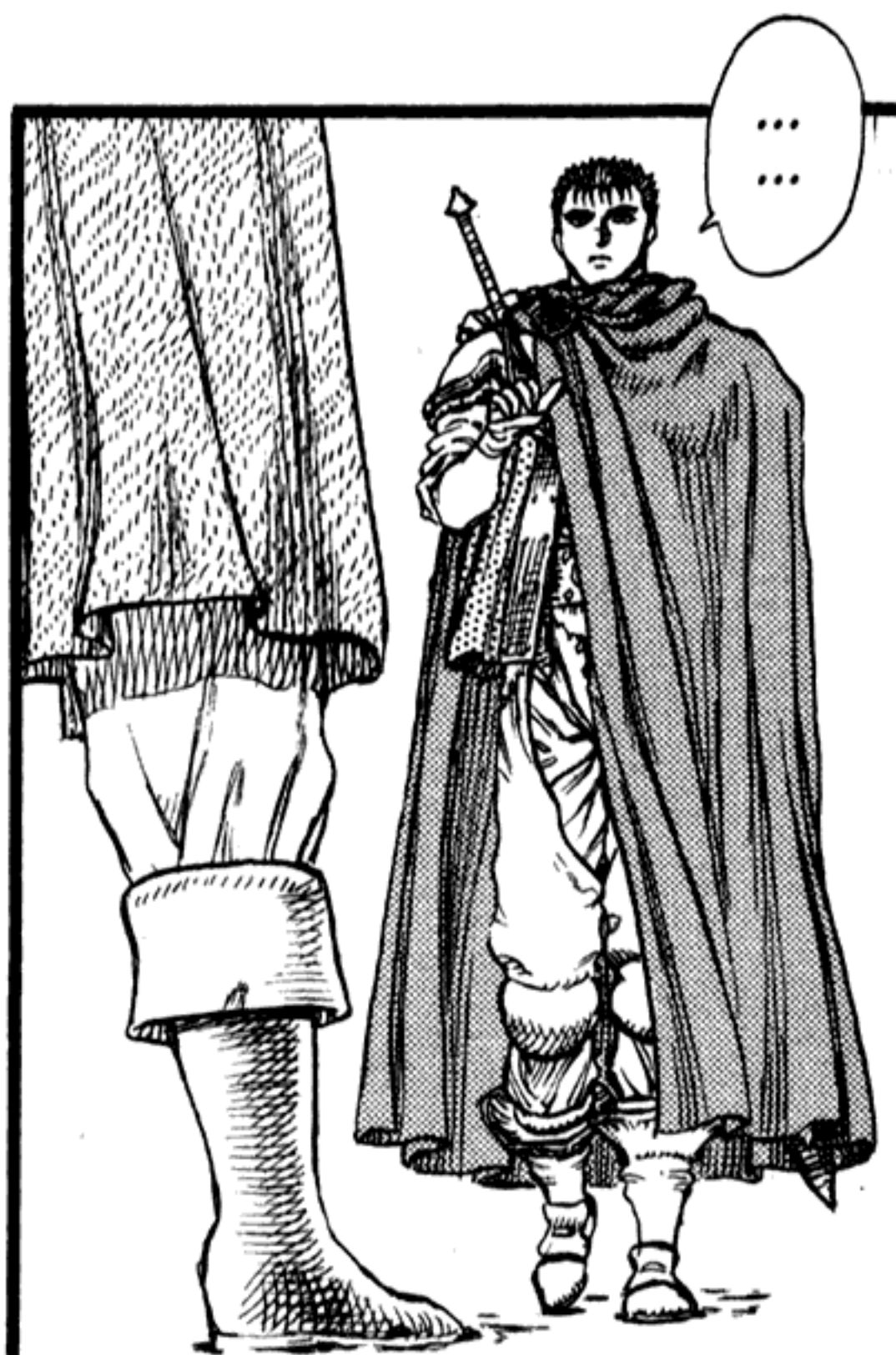
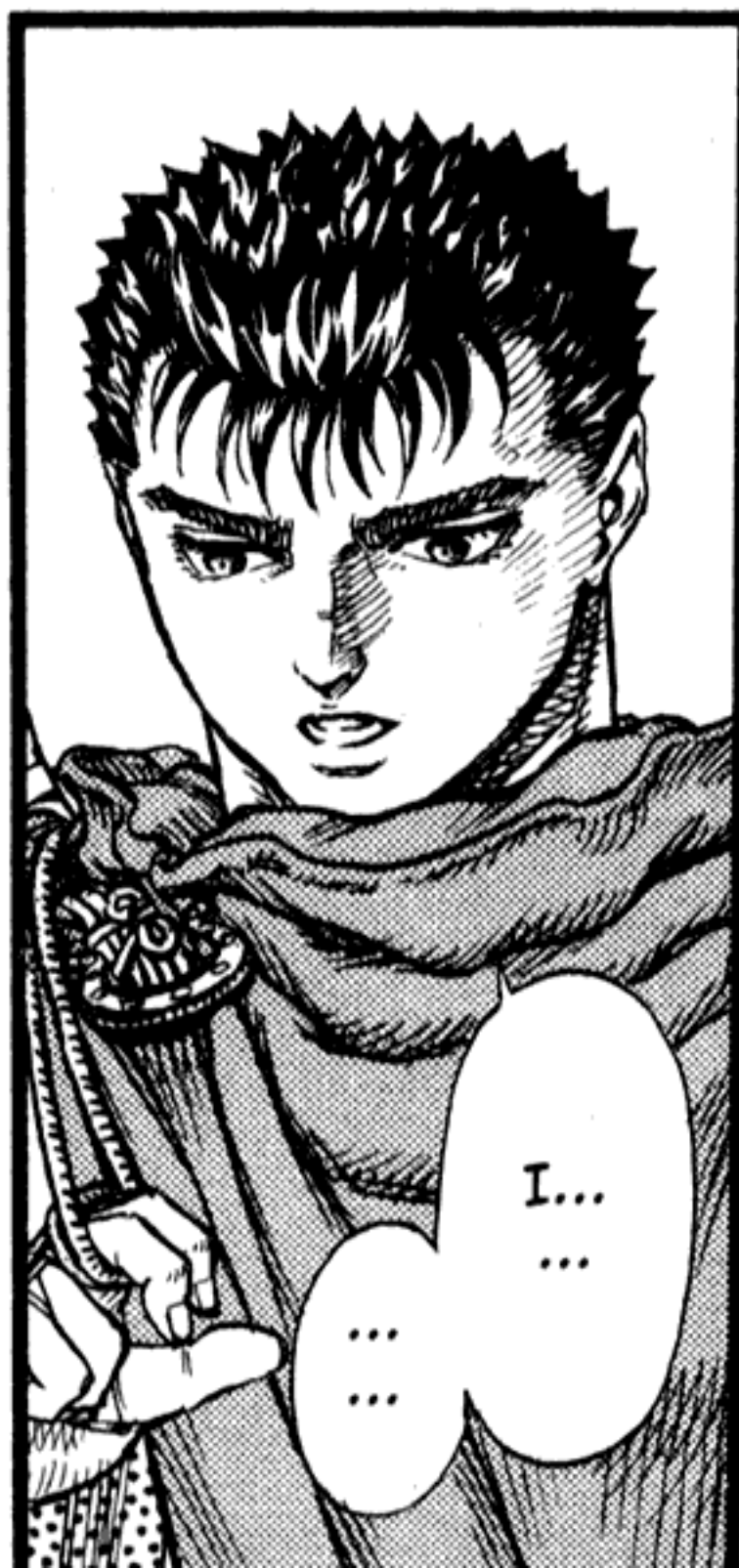
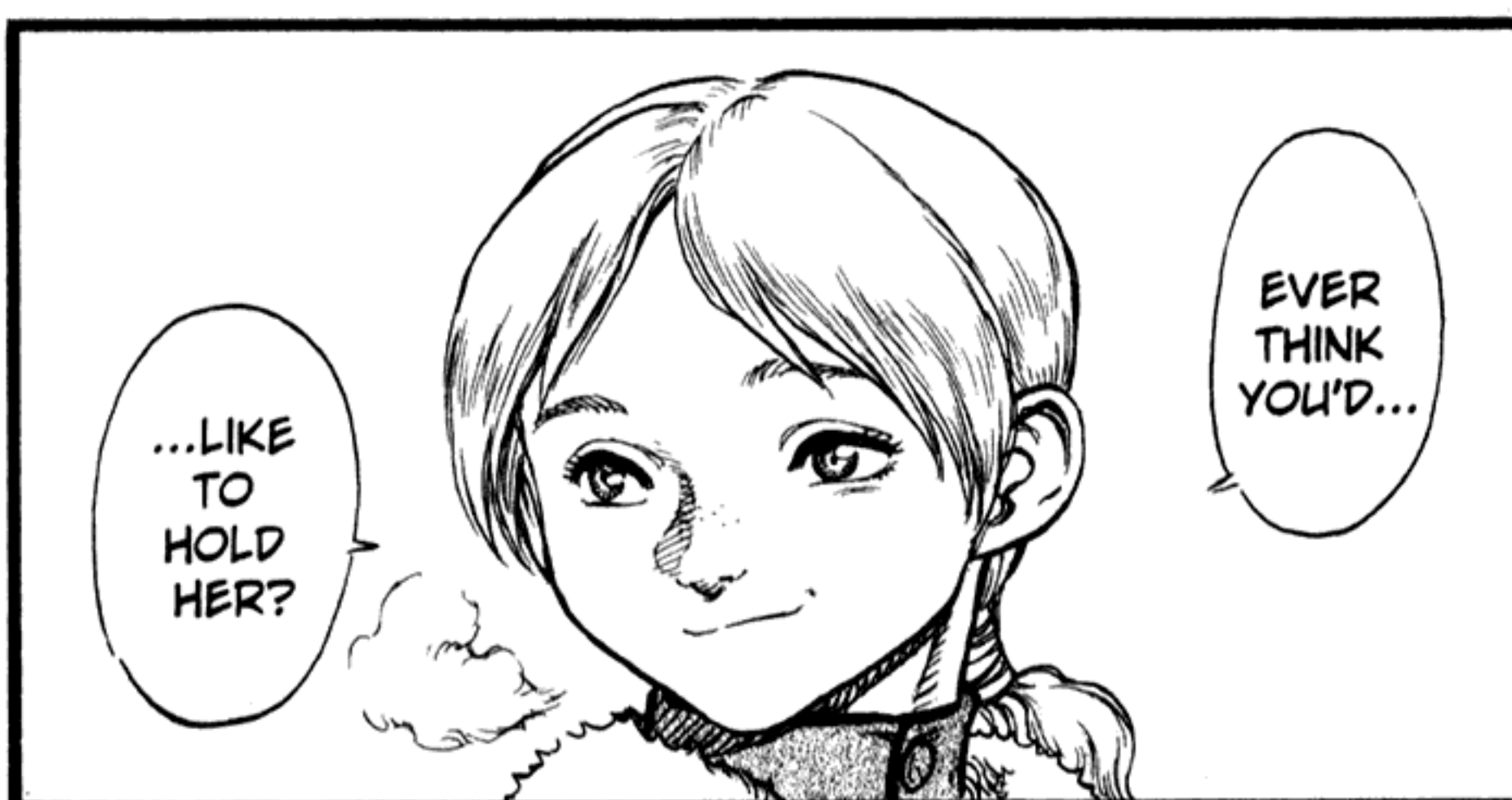
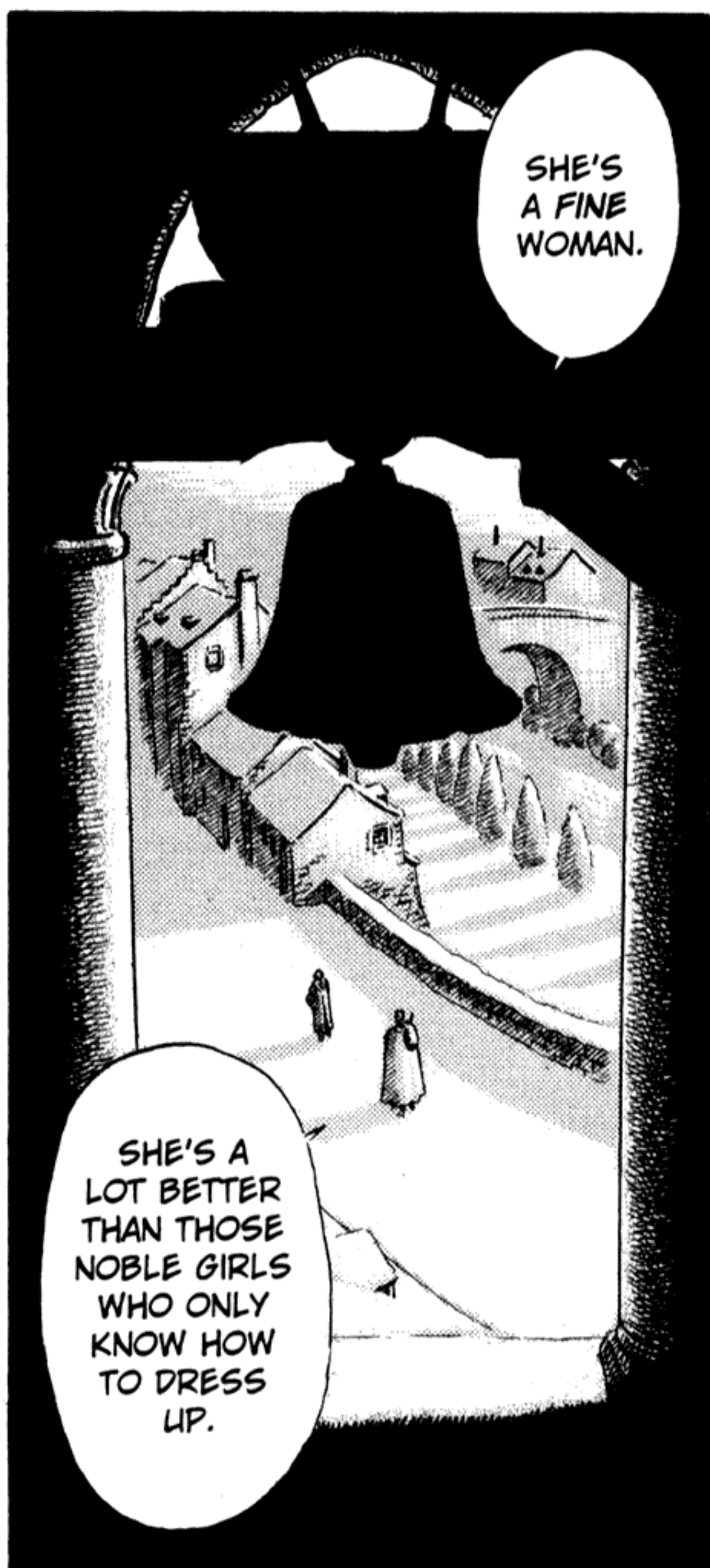
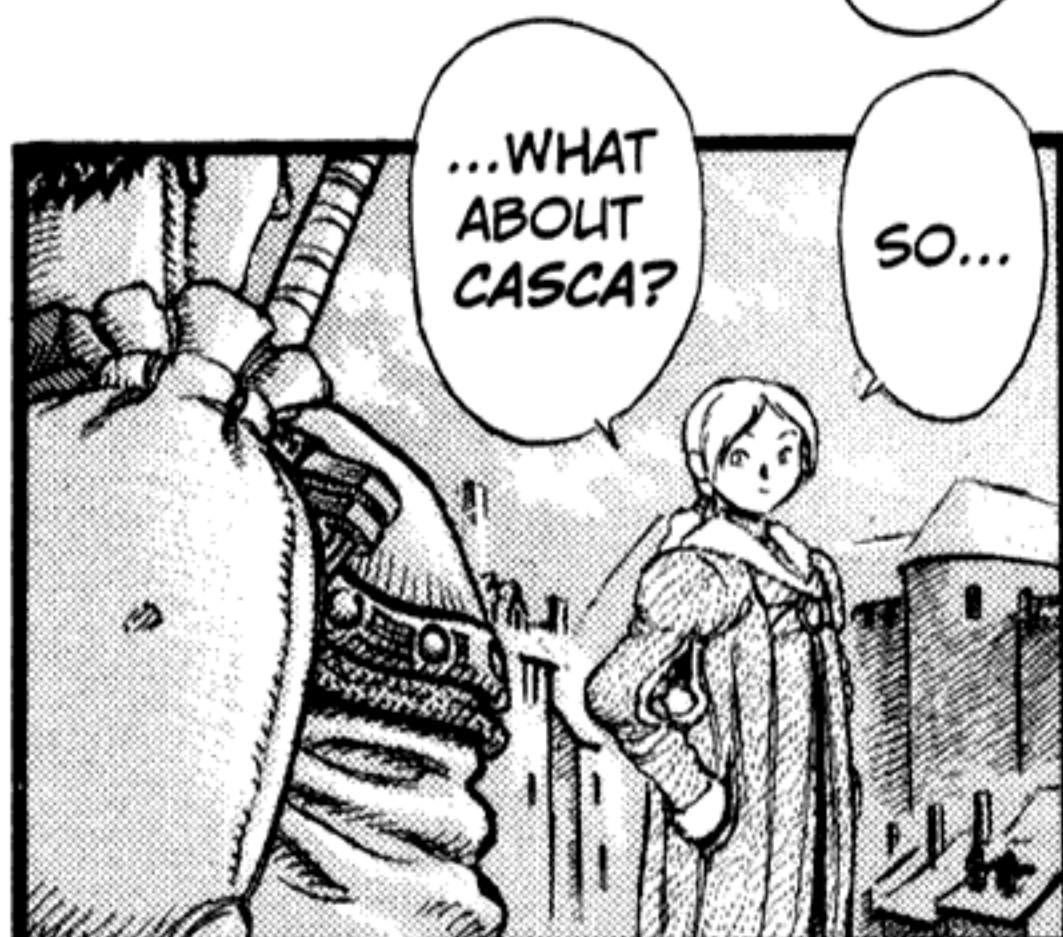
"TO
THE
END."

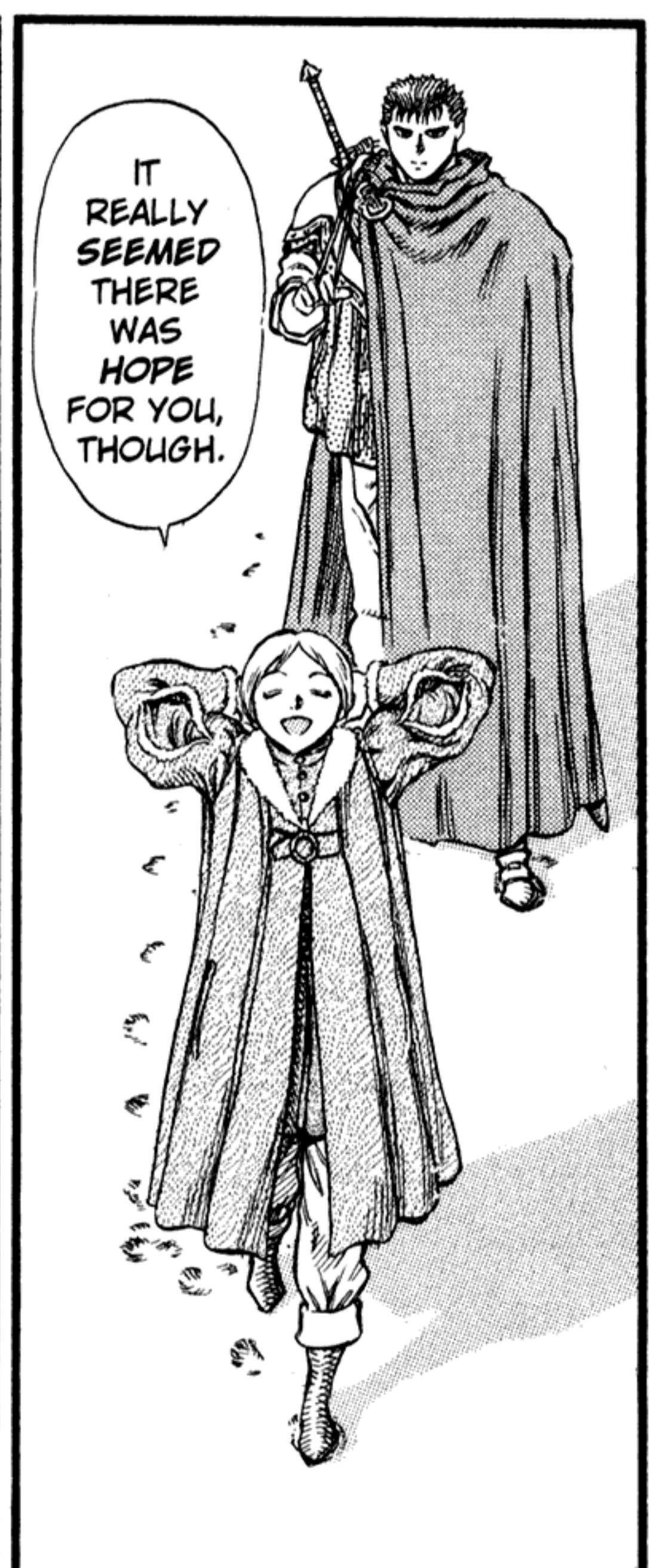
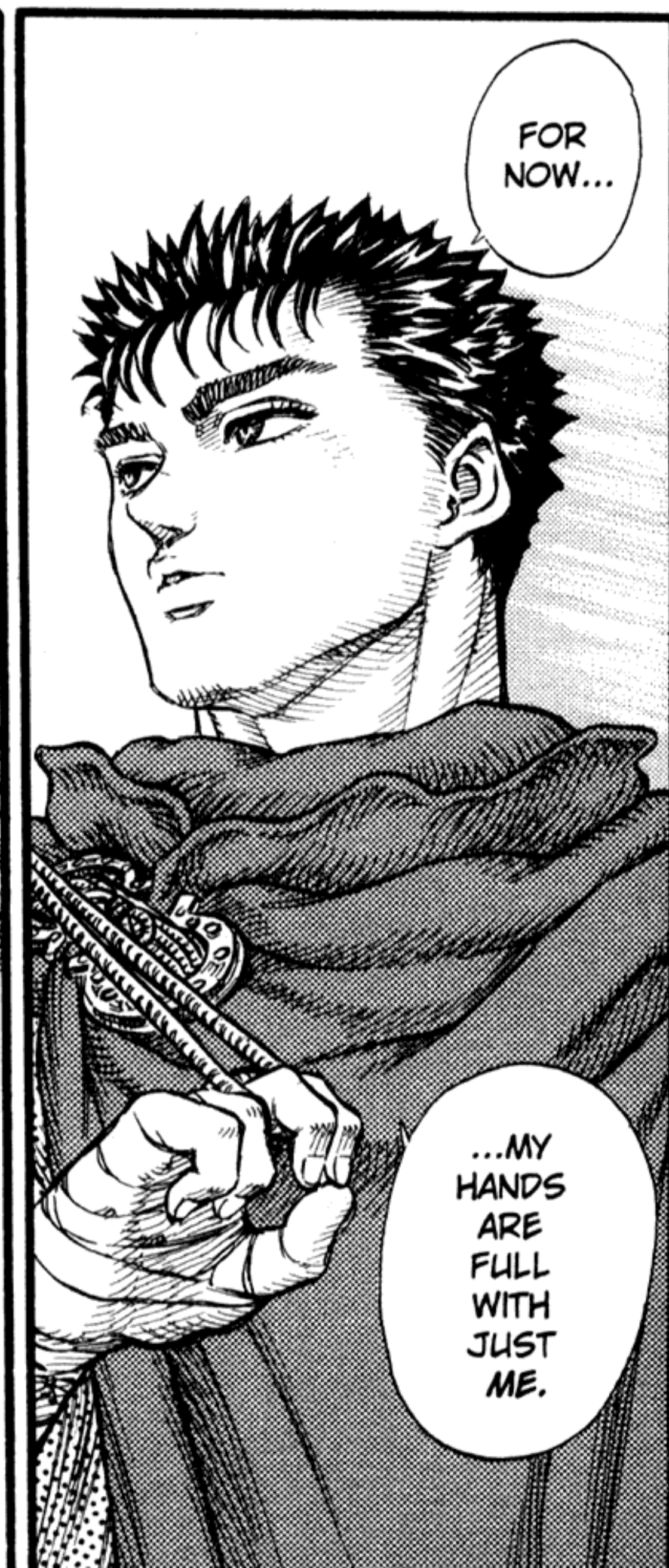
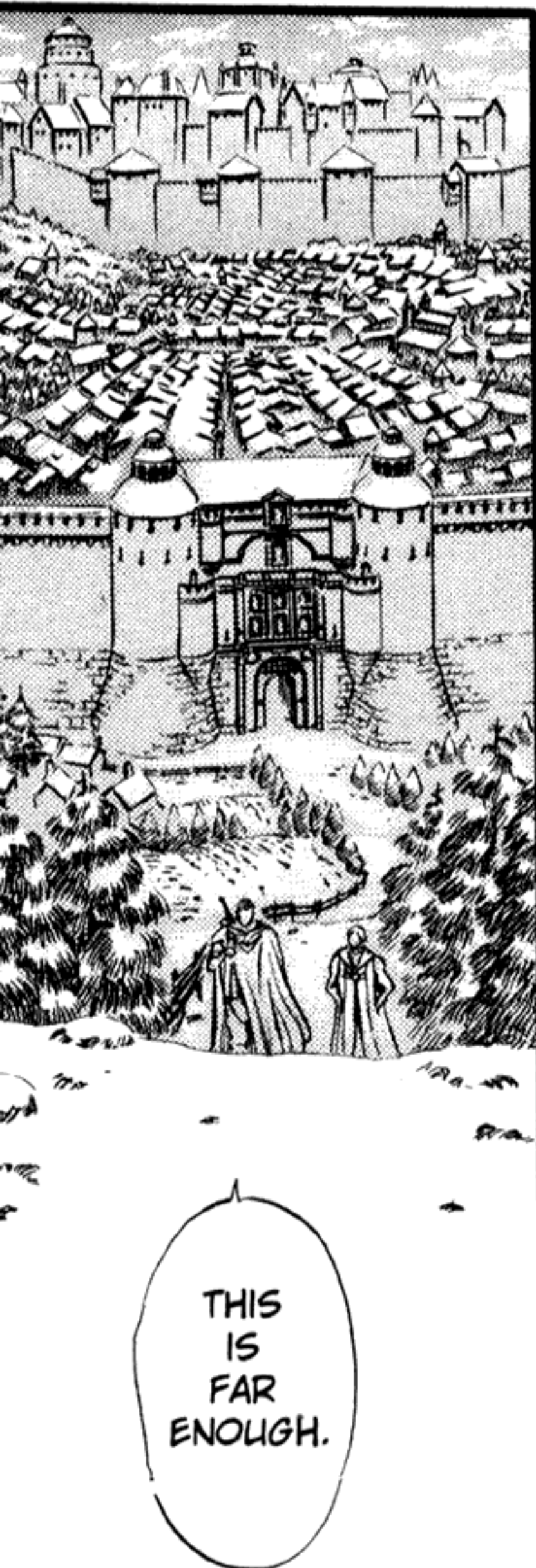
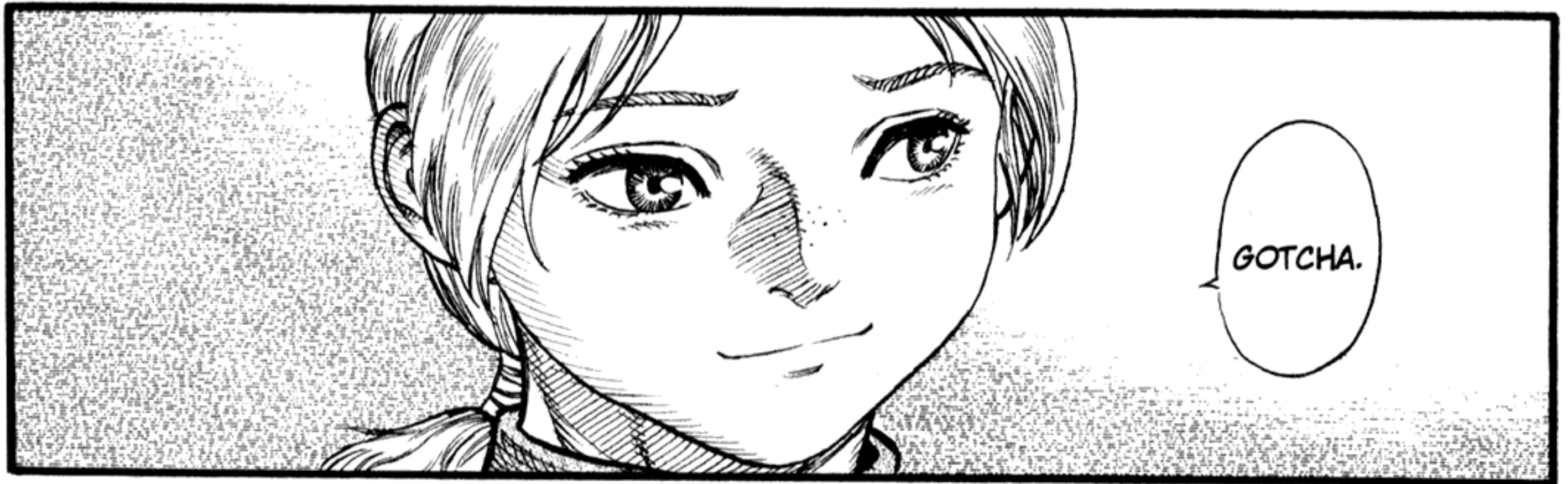
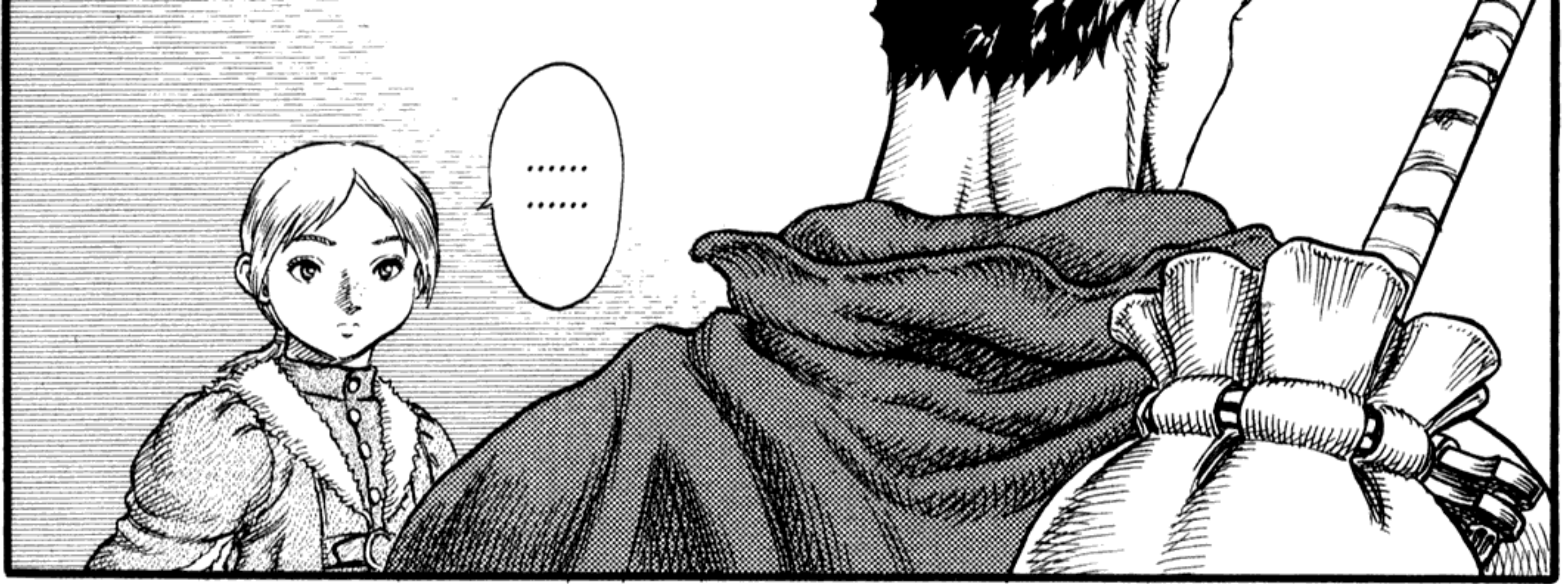
"YOU'RE
ROUGH
ENOUGH
TO SHARE
THIS WITH."

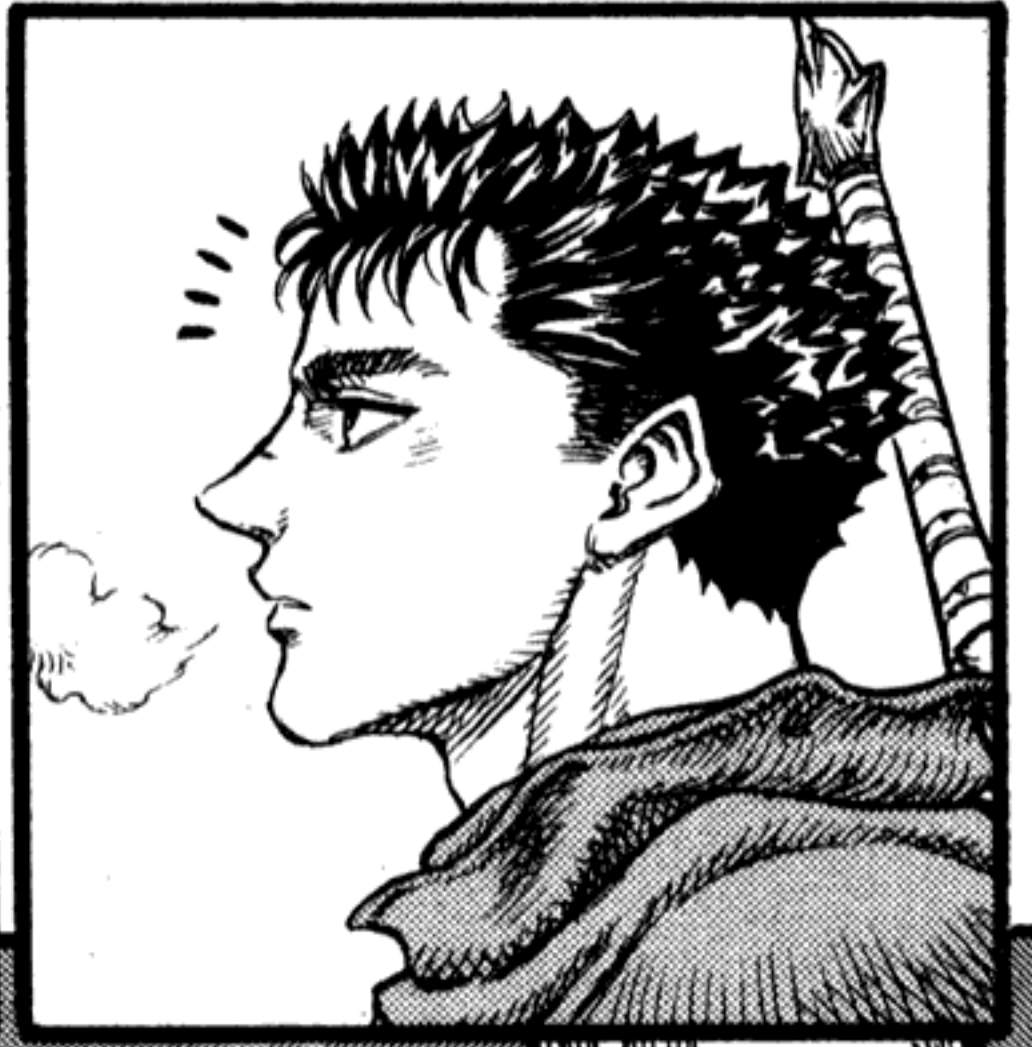
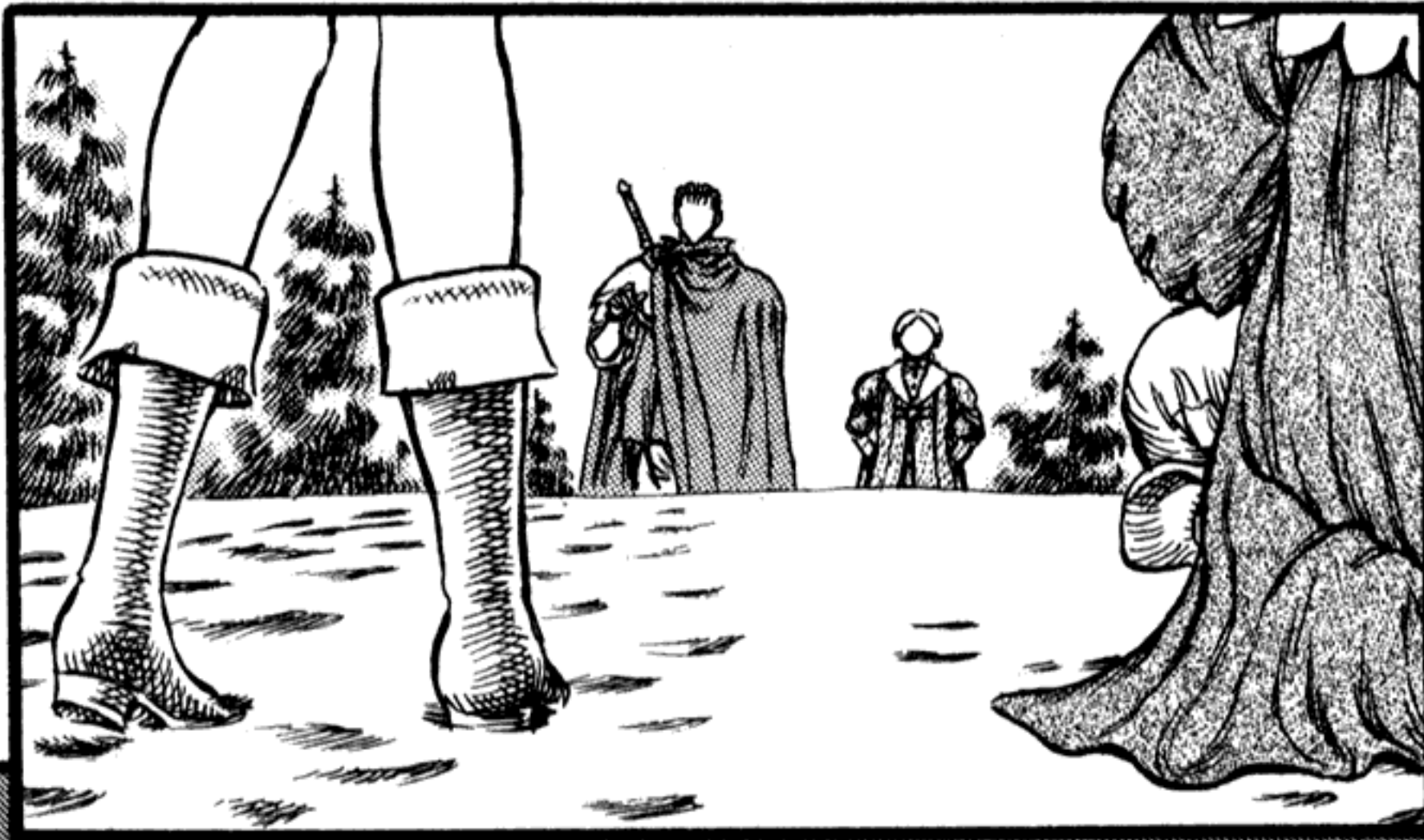


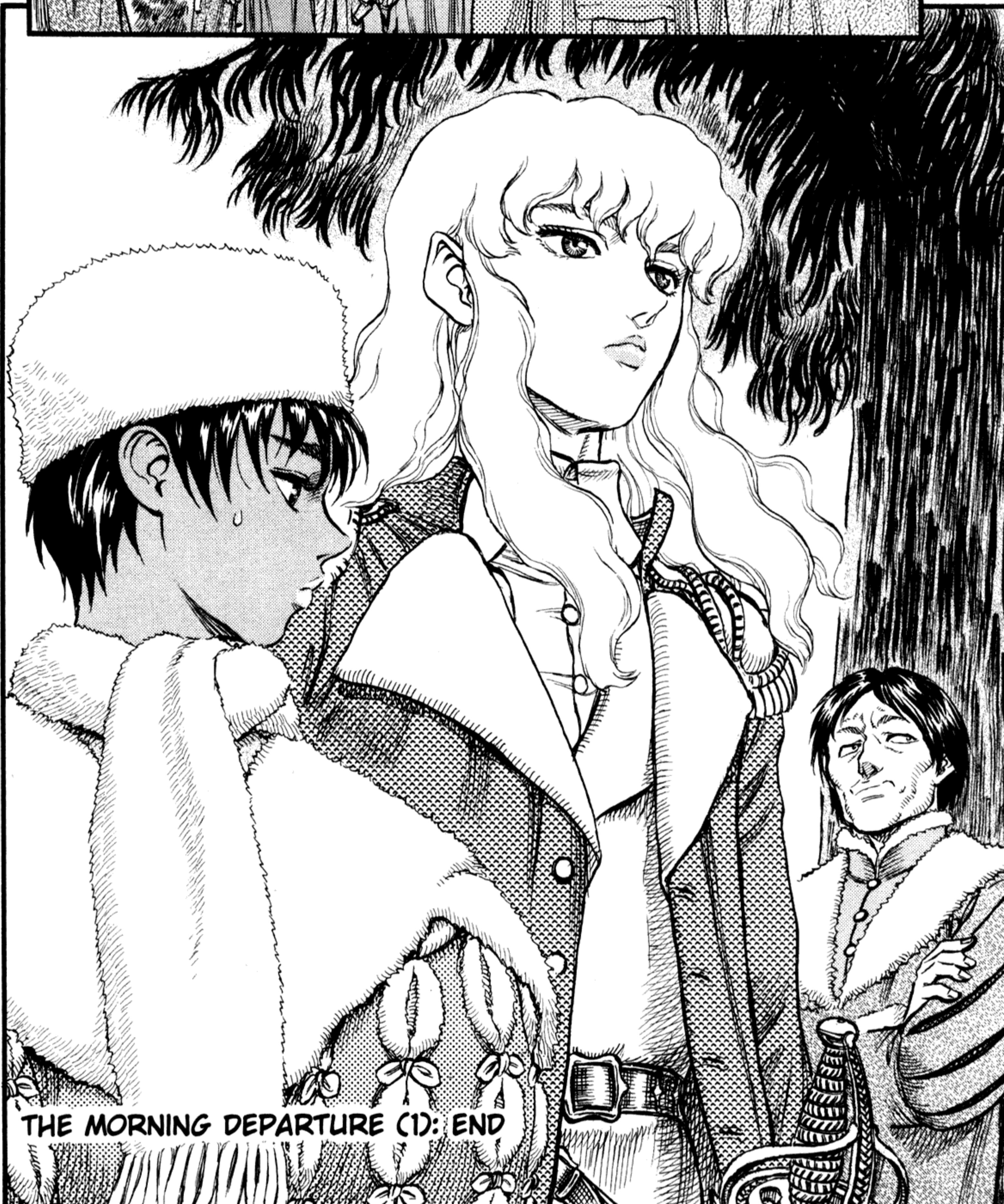
WELL, THAT'S
PROBABLY BY HIS
DESIGN... ANYWAY,
THERE'S NO WAY
HE'LL MISS THIS
CHANCE.

THE
PRINCESS...
SHE'S IN
LOVE
WITH
HIM.









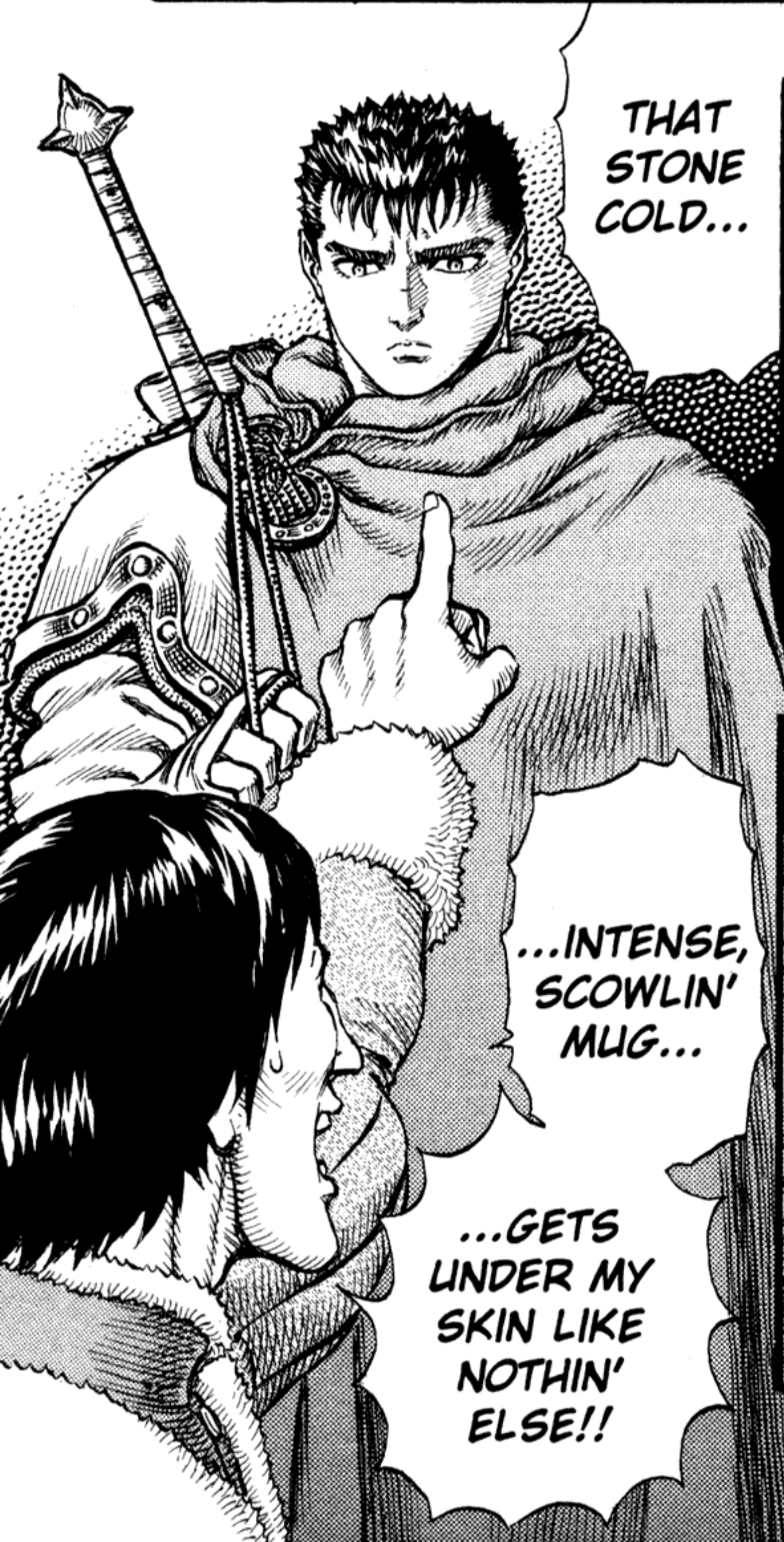
THE MORNING DEPARTURE (1): END



TO BE HONEST, I AIMED MY BOWGUN AT YOUR BACK MORE THAN JUST ONCE OR TWICE IN BATTLE.

I ALWAYS HATED YOU, PAL!

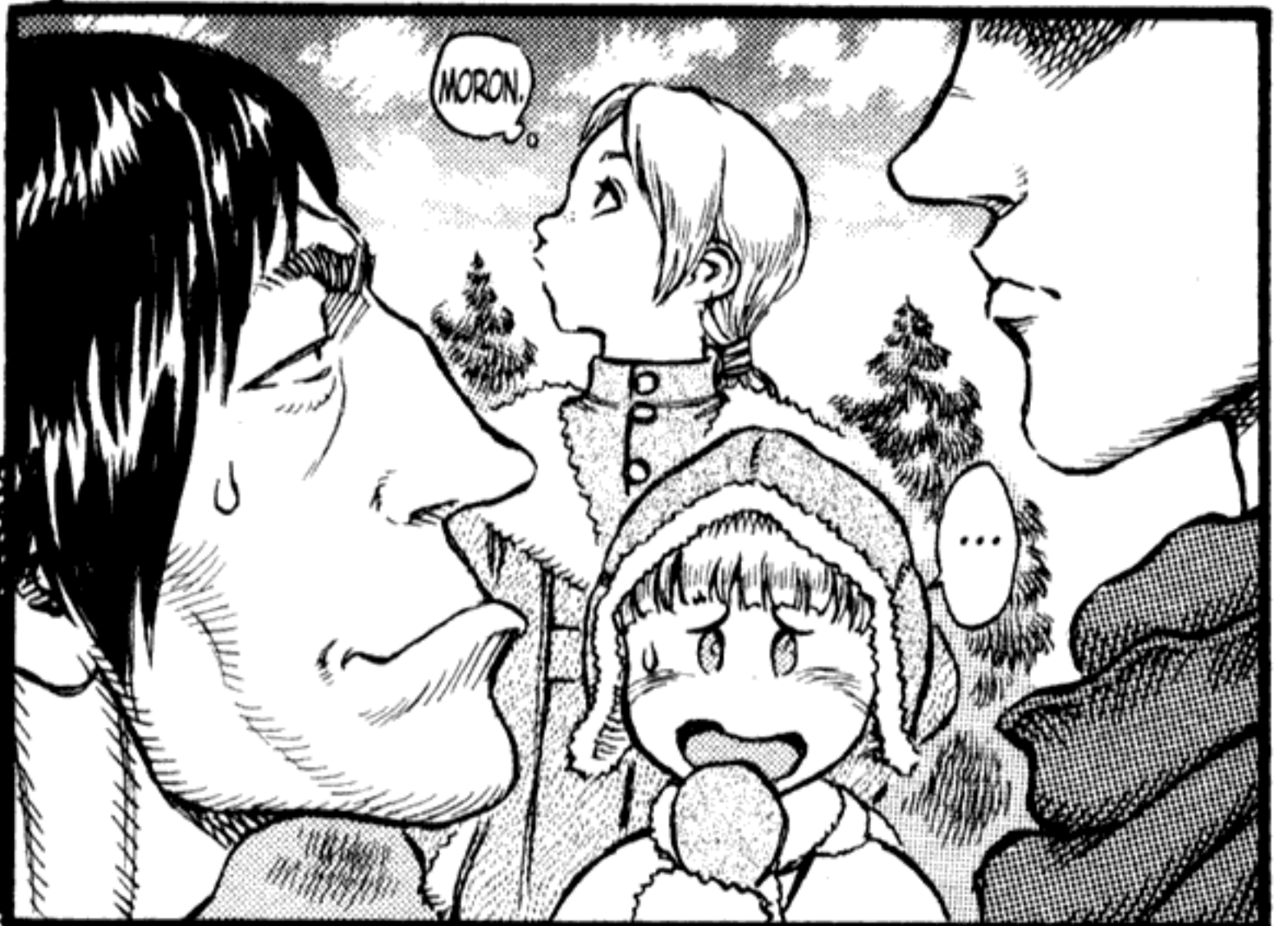
FROM THE START!



THAT STONE COLD...

...INTENSE, SCOWLIN' MUG...

...GETS UNDER MY SKIN LIKE NOTHIN' ELSE!!



MORON.

...



...

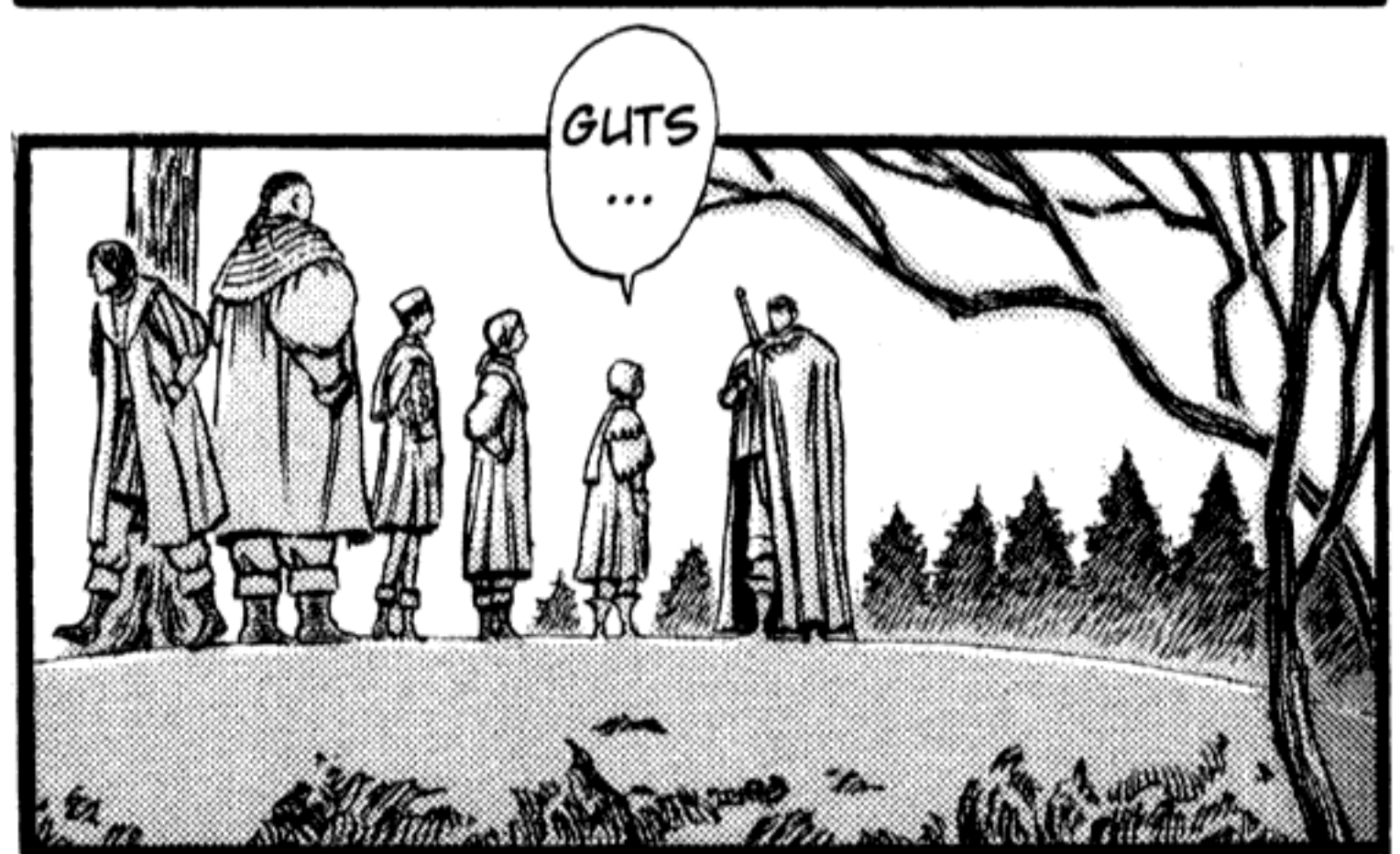
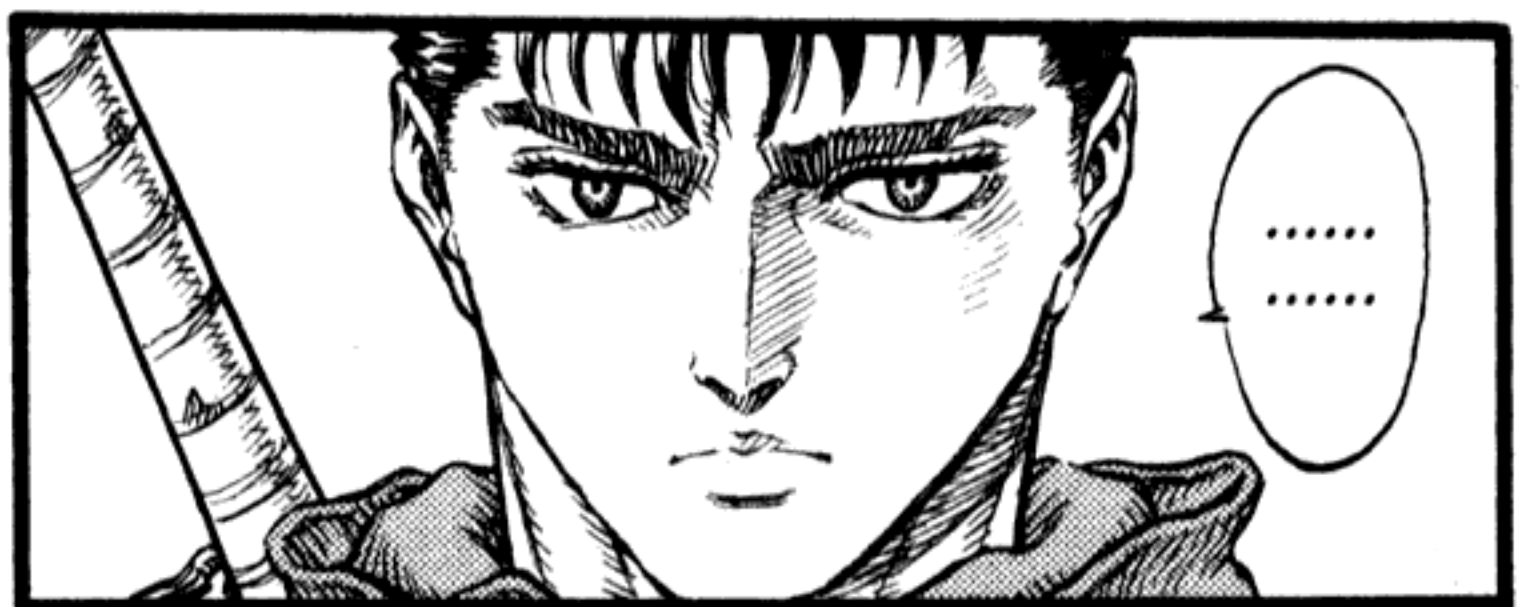
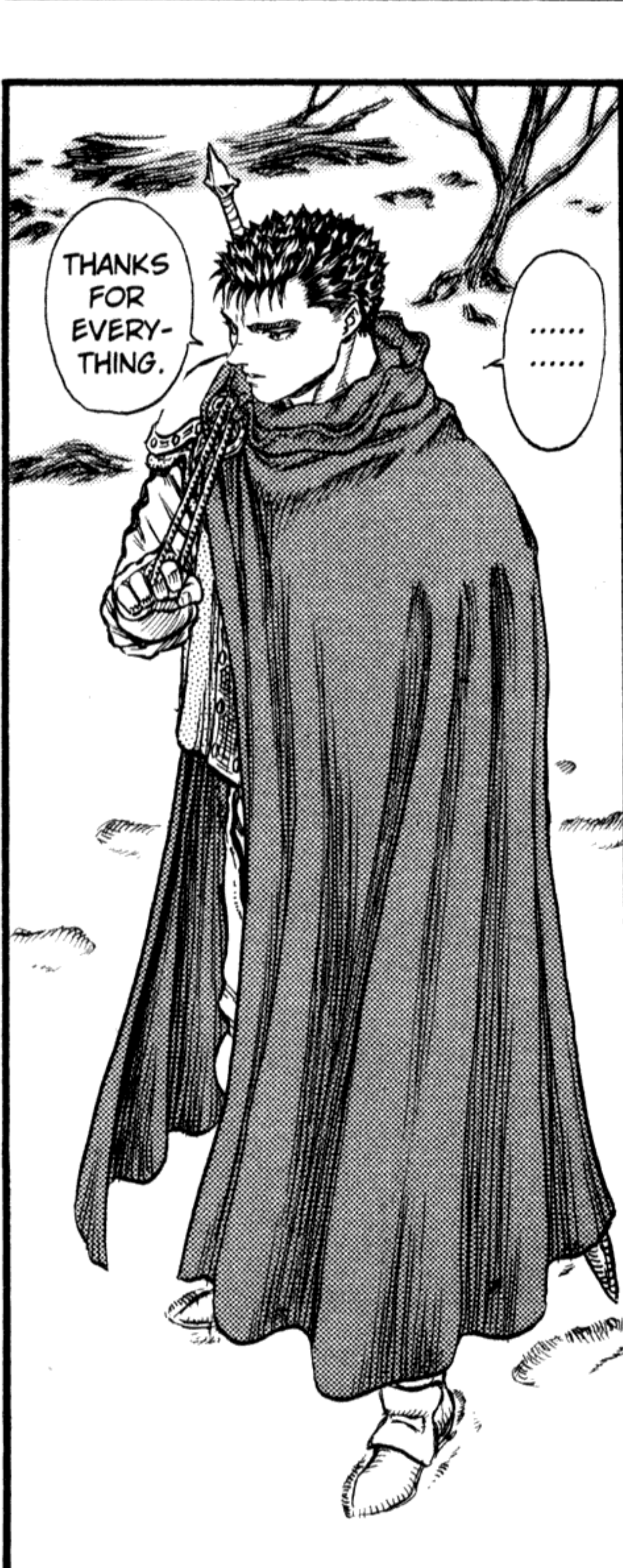
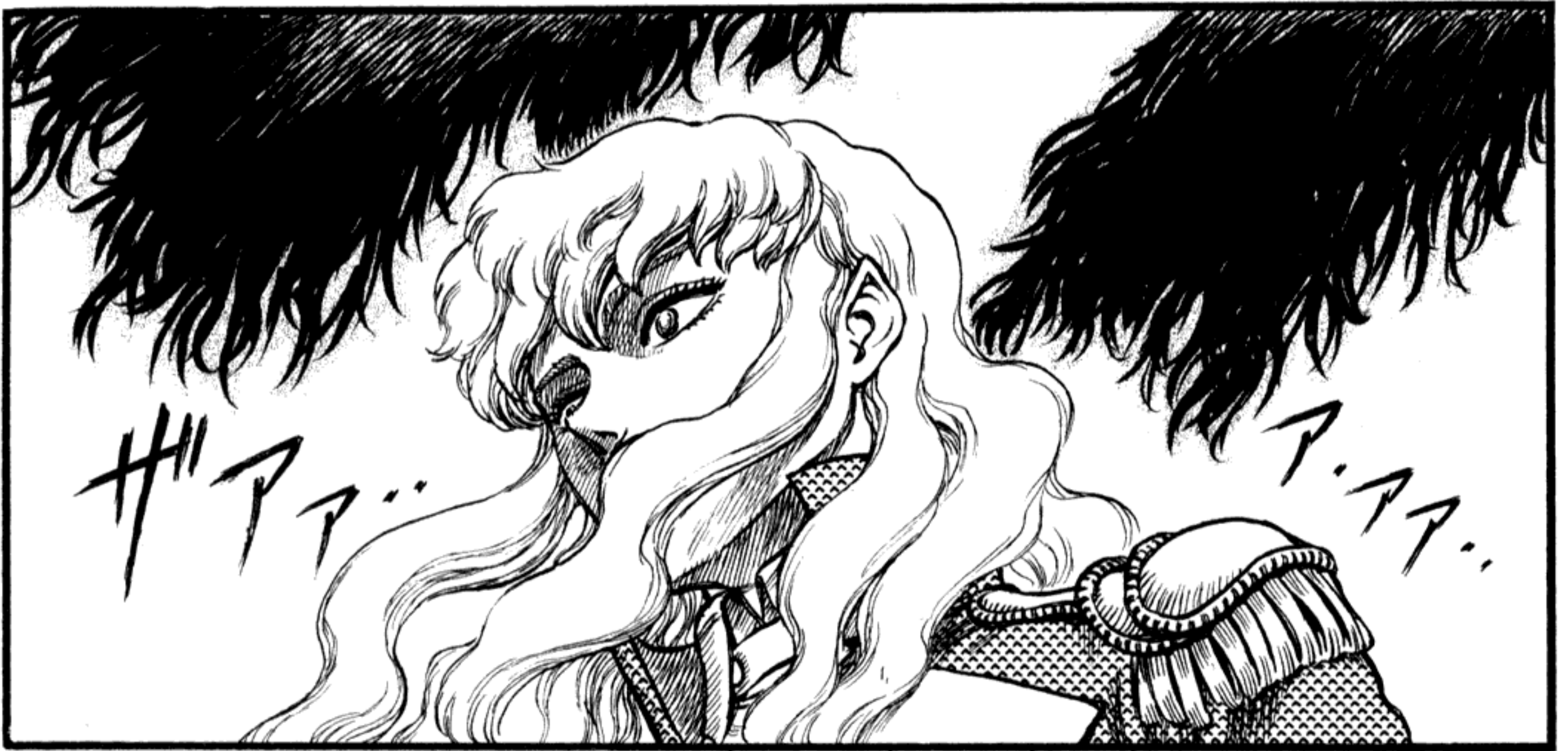
IT'S THAT FACE.



NOW I FINALLY SEE WHY YOU...

HEH ...

...PISS ME OFF SO MUCH.



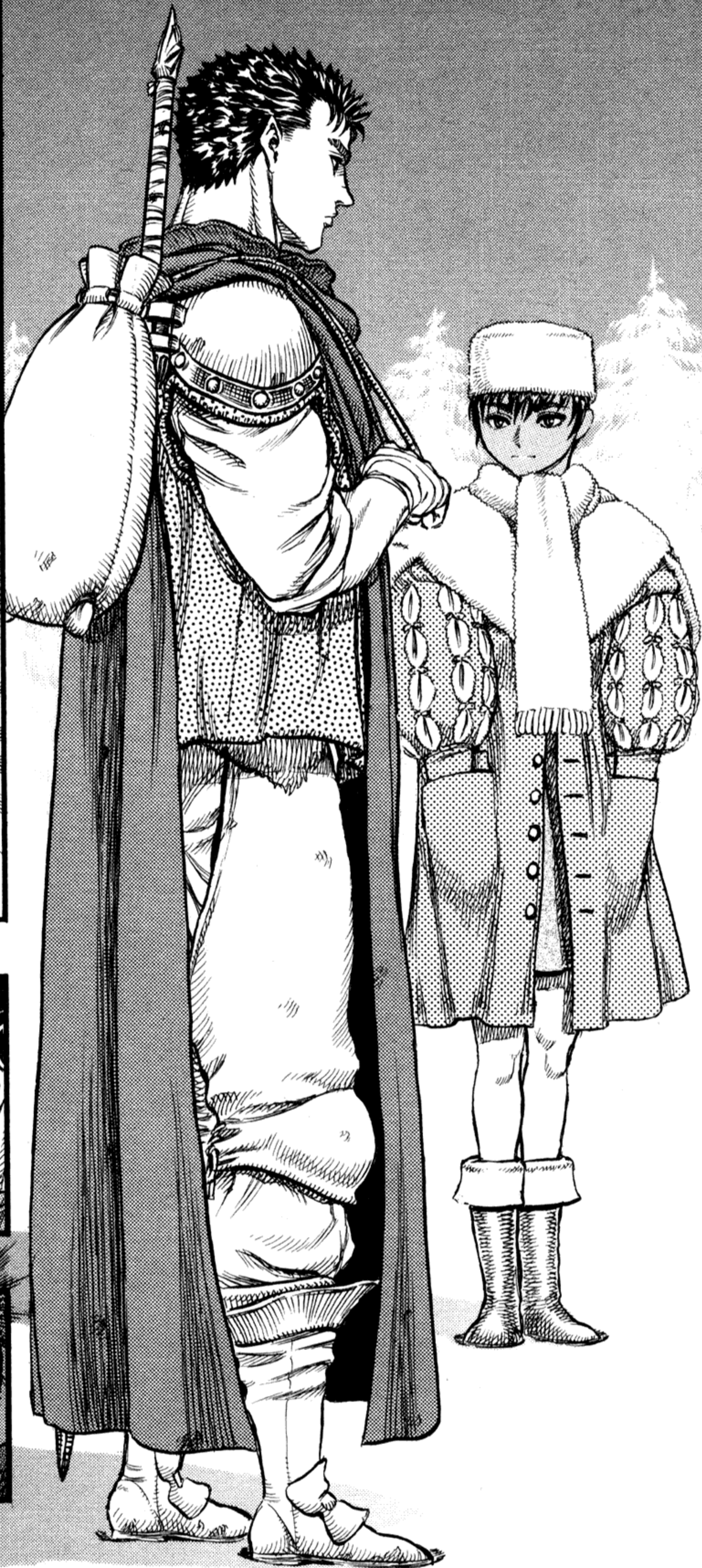
"CASCA..."

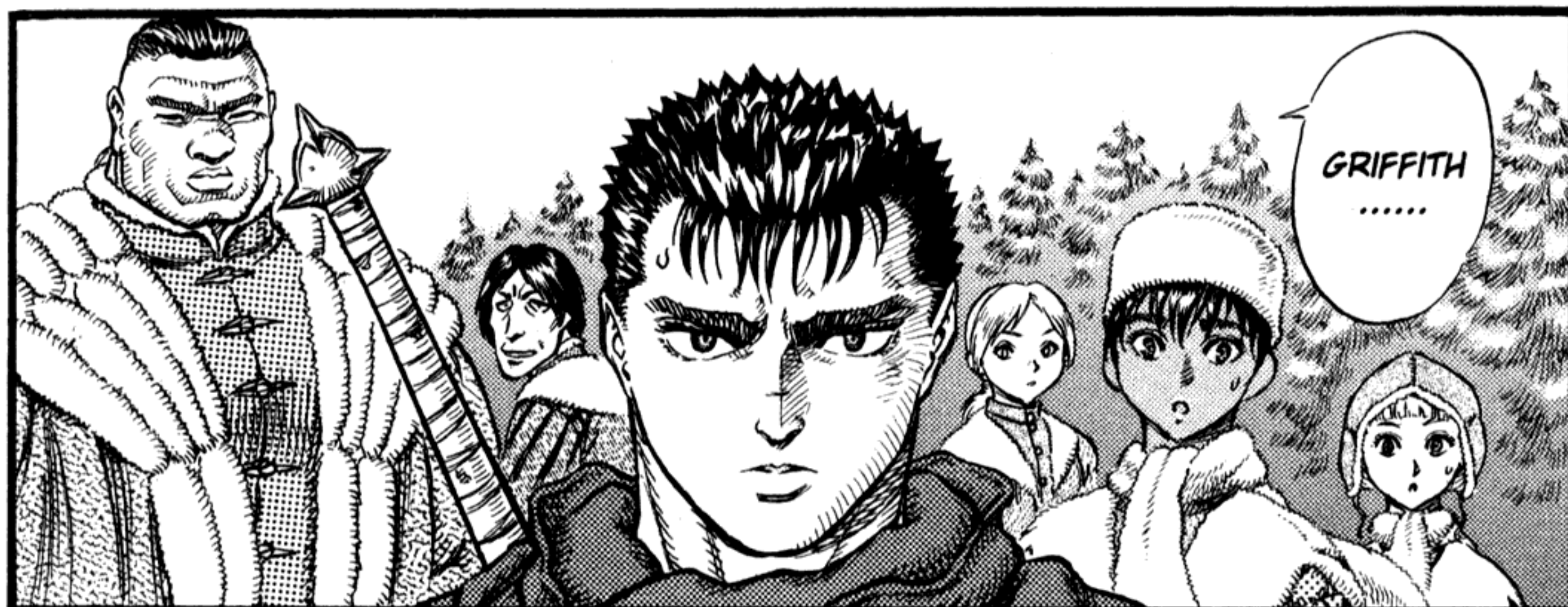
"...CAN'T
BE WITH
GRIFFITH.
CHANCES
ARE..."

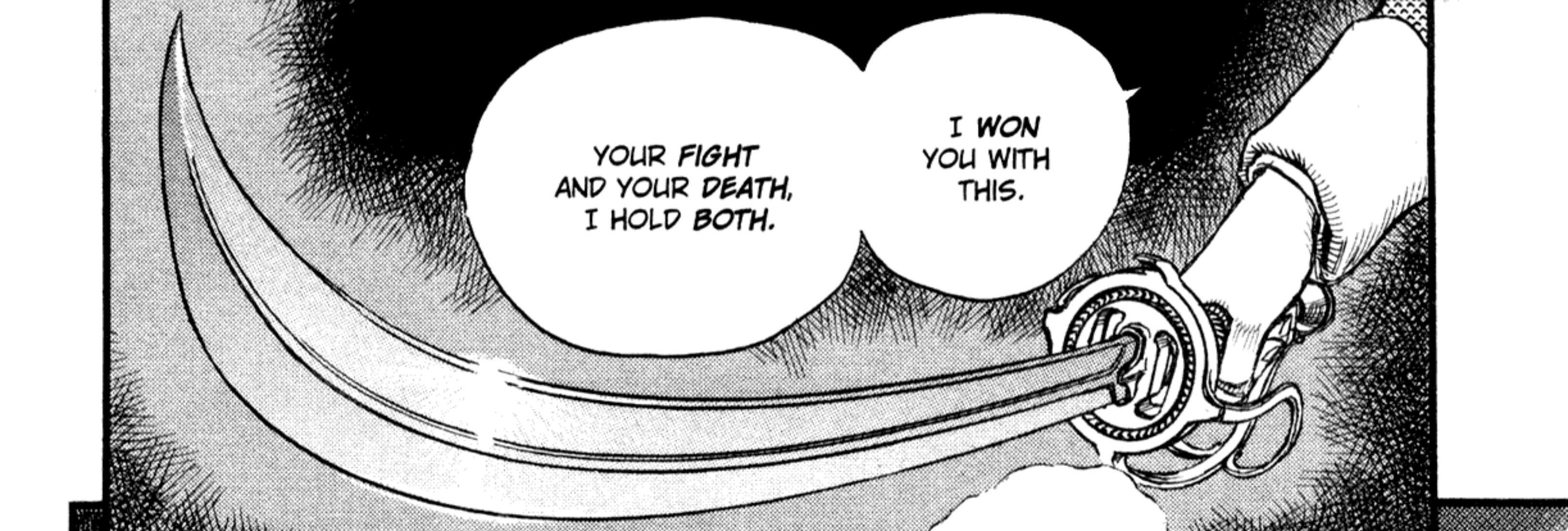
"...WHY
NOT TRY
YOUR
LUCK
WITH
HER?"

"EVER
THINK..."

"...YOU'D
LIKE
TO
HOLD
HER?"

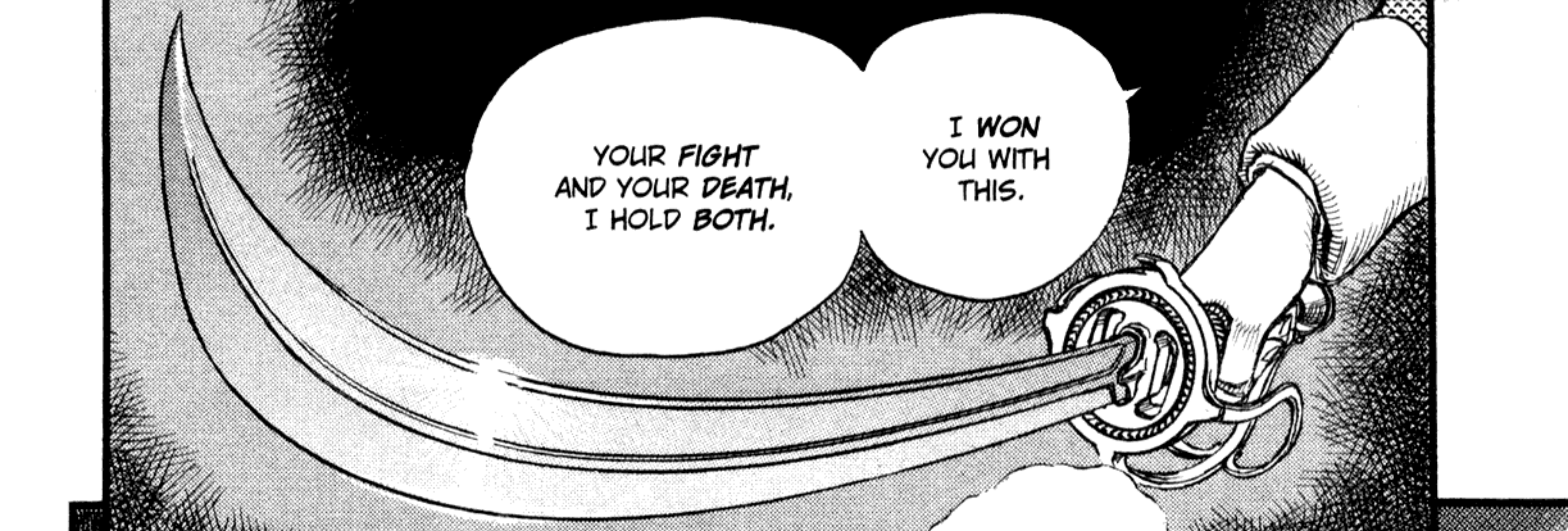






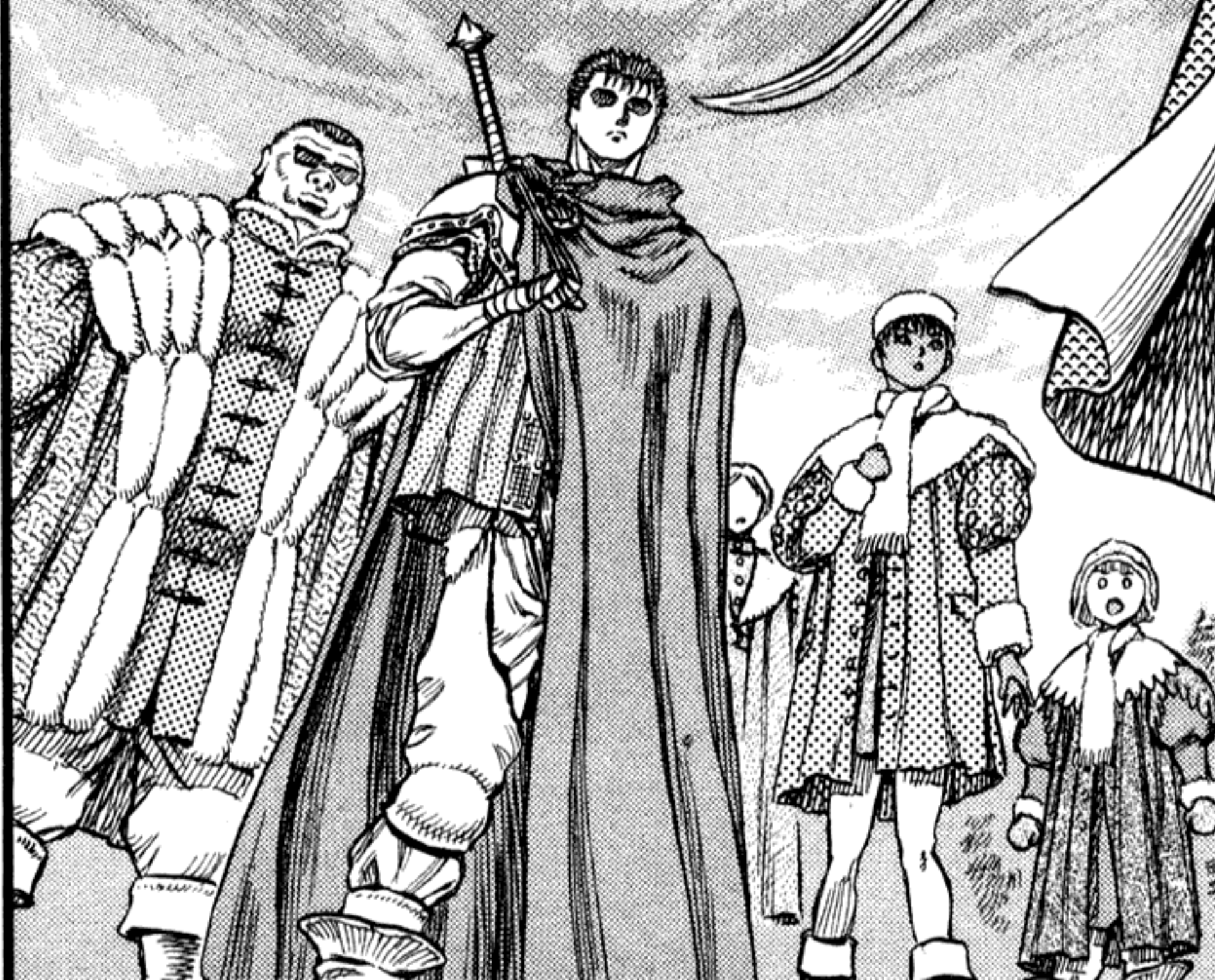
YOUR FIGHT
AND YOUR DEATH,
I HOLD BOTH.

I WON
YOU WITH
THIS.



IF YOU
WANT TO
LEAVE MY
GRASP,
THEN IT'LL
BE THE
SAME AS
THAT TIME...

WREST
YOURSELF
AWAY BY
YOUR
SWORD.







...TO GO.

...I HAVE...

THAT'S WHY...

AND SHOULD ANYONE TRAMPLE THAT DREAM, YOU WOULD OPPOSE HIM BODY AND SOUL...EVEN IF THE THREAT WERE ME, MYSELF...

SO THAT'S WHY...



WHAT I THINK A FRIEND IS, IS THAT... ONE WHO IS MY "EQUAL."



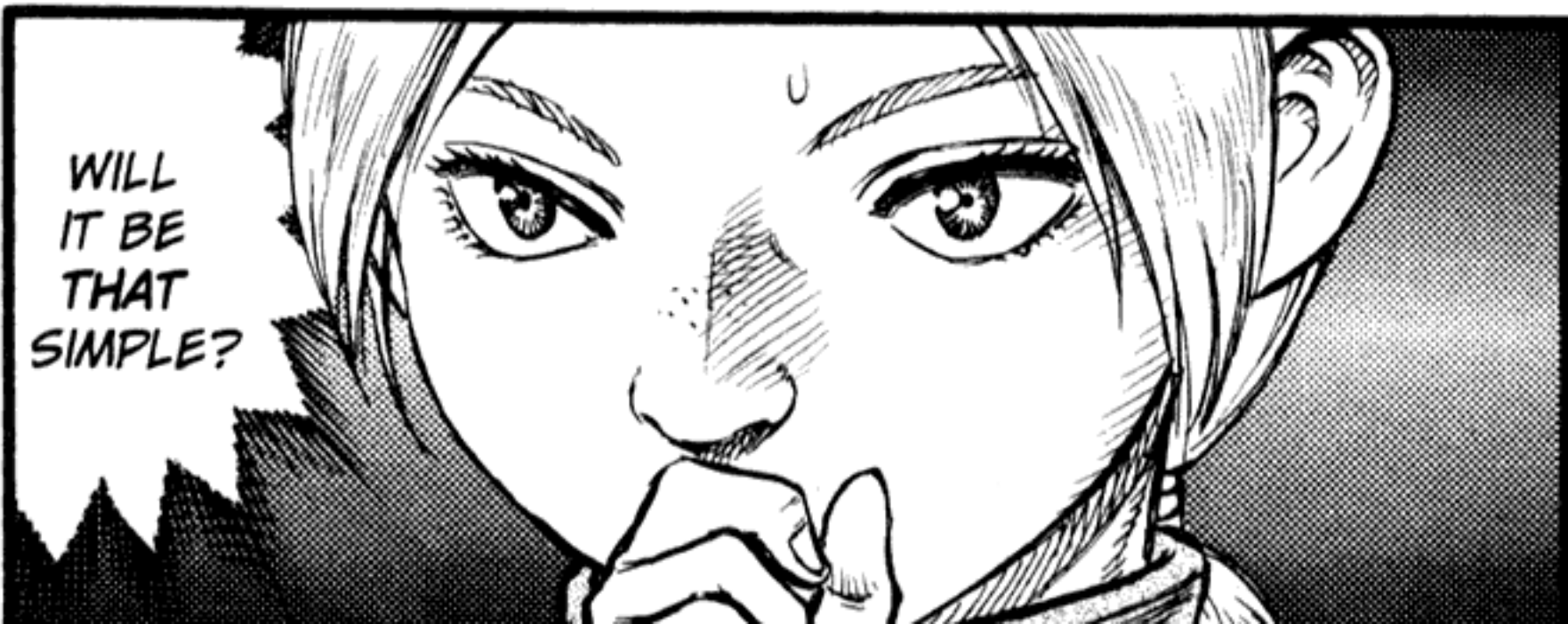
HE'S EXPOSED HIMSELF TO DANGER MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE BAND OF THE HAWK... GRIFFITH IS CERTAINLY A GENIUS WHEN IT COMES TO SWORD TECHNIQUE...

THESE PAST THREE YEARS GUTS HAS CUT HIS OWN PATH THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELD AS CAPTAIN OF THE RAIDERS.

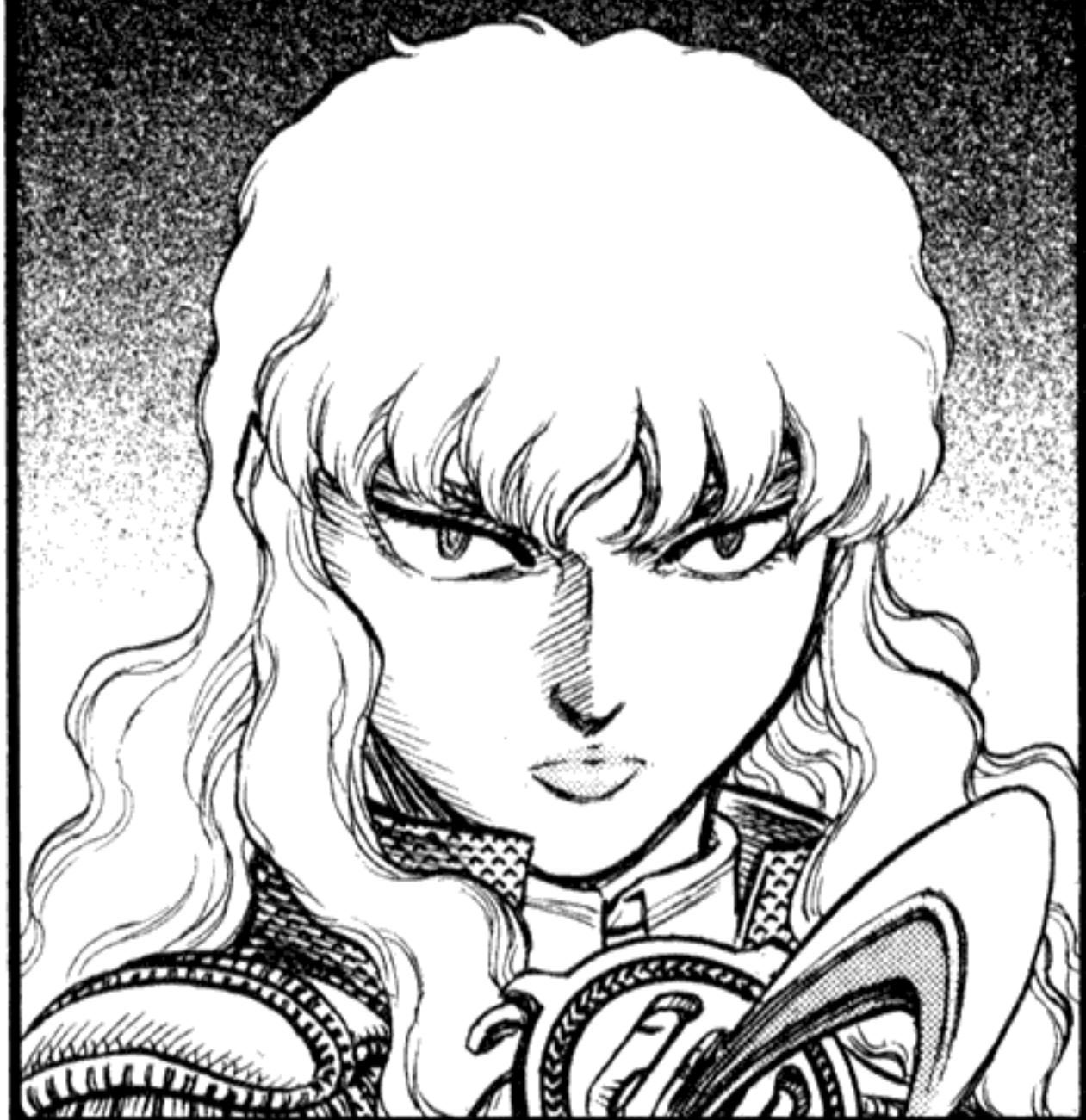


MAYBE LOSIN' AN ARM'LL WAKE HIS ASS UP.

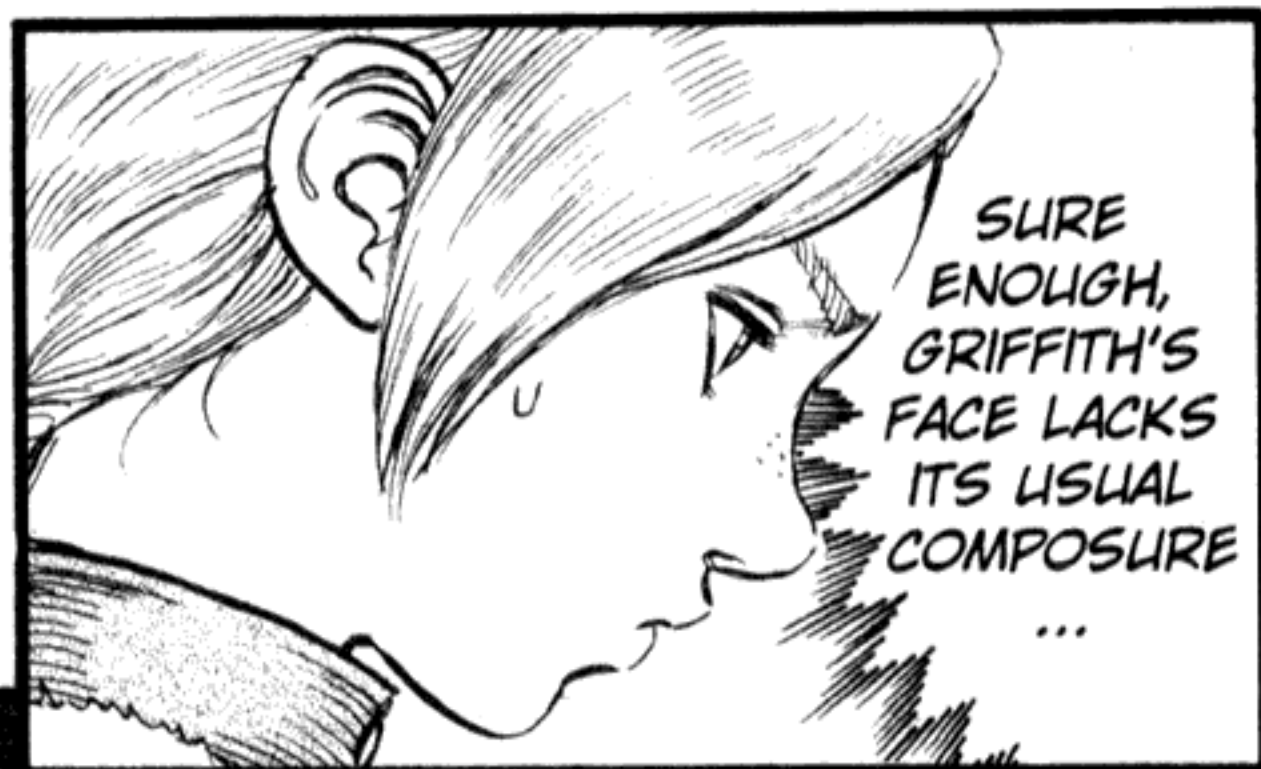
HEH!



WILL IT BE THAT SIMPLE?

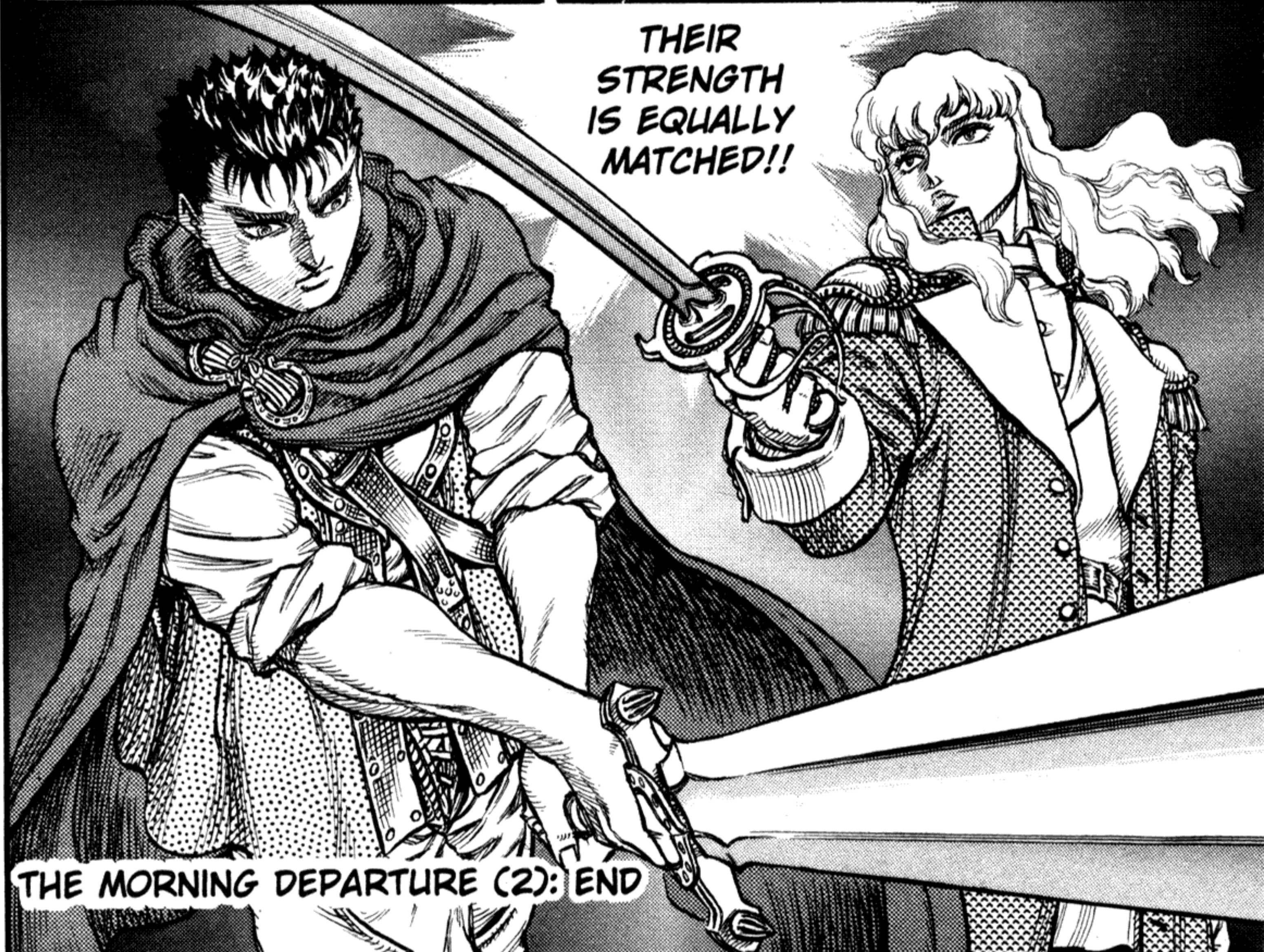


...BUT GUTS' SKILLS
HAVE BEEN SO WELL
HONED ON THE LINE
BETWEEN LIFE AND
DEATH THAT YOU
COULD SAY HIS IS
A SWORD OF
CARNAGE!!



SURE
ENOUGH,
GRIFFITH'S
FACE LACKS
ITS USUAL
COMPOSURE
...

THEIR
STRENGTH
IS EQUALLY
MATCHED!!



THE MORNING DEPARTURE (2): END



THE MORNING DEPARTURE

THE MORNING DEPARTURE CHAPTER 3

旅立ちの朝(3)

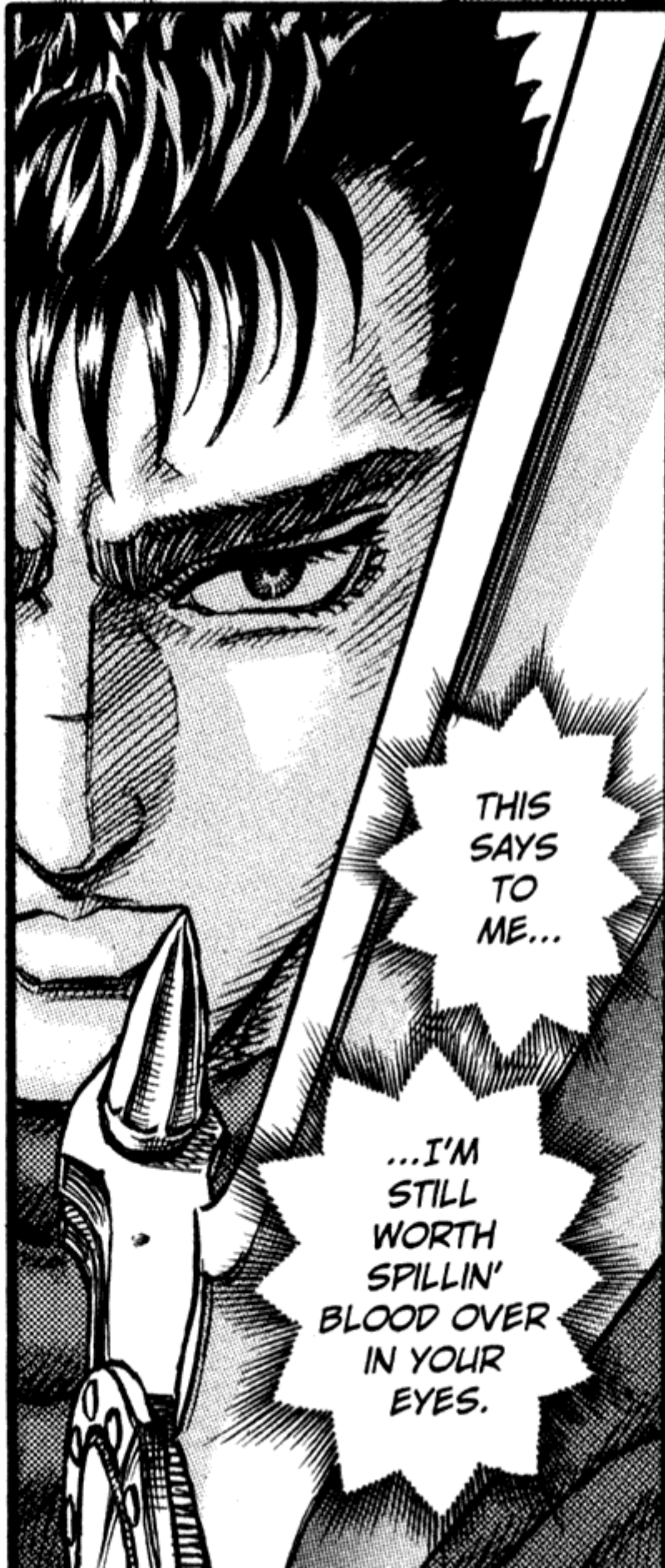


I'M
FEELING
STRANGELY
CALM.

IT'S
ODD.

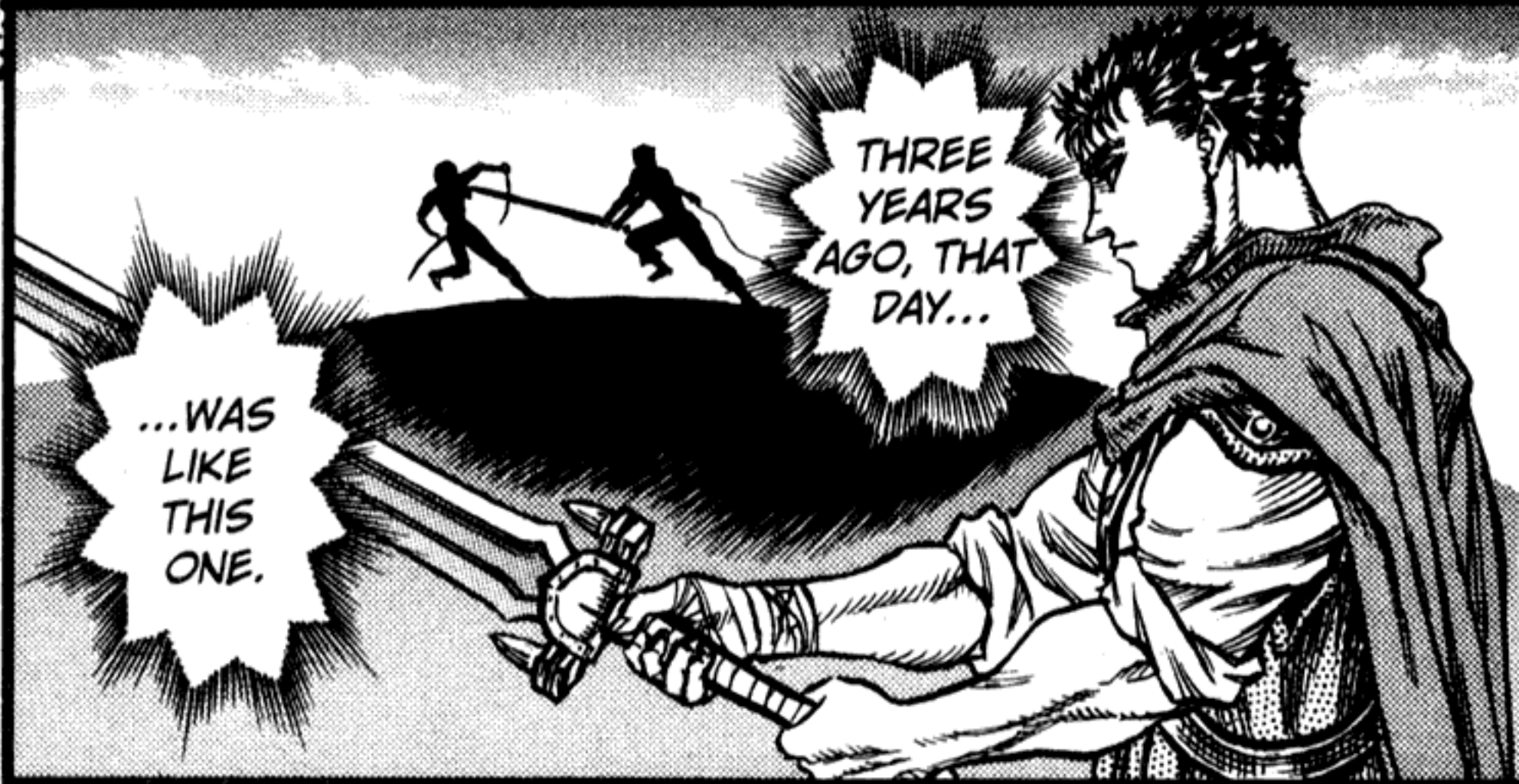
YET
I'M UP
AGAINST
GRIFFITH
...

SO
THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN
DROP MY
GUARD.



THIS
SAYS
TO ME...

...I'M
STILL
WORTH
SPILLIN'
BLOOD OVER
IN YOUR
EYES.



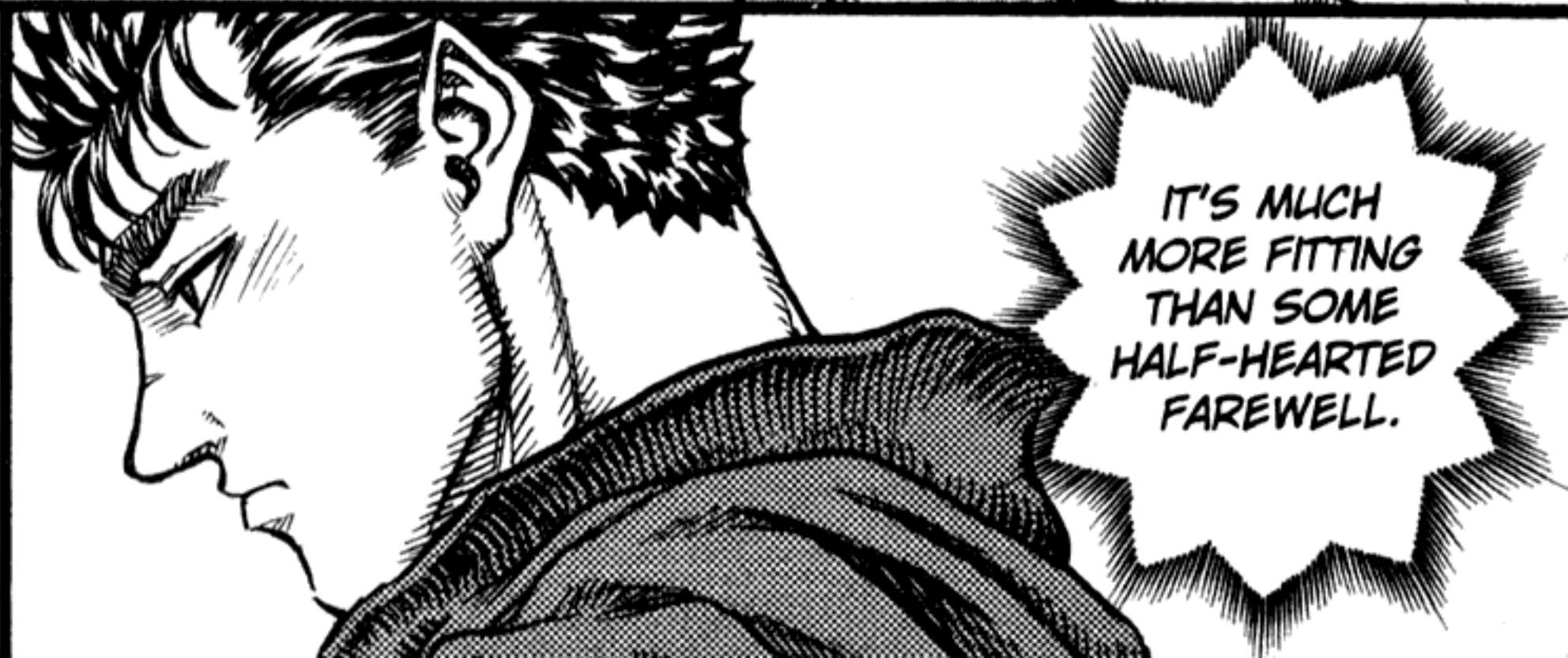
...WAS
LIKE
THIS
ONE.

THREE
YEARS
AGO, THAT
DAY...

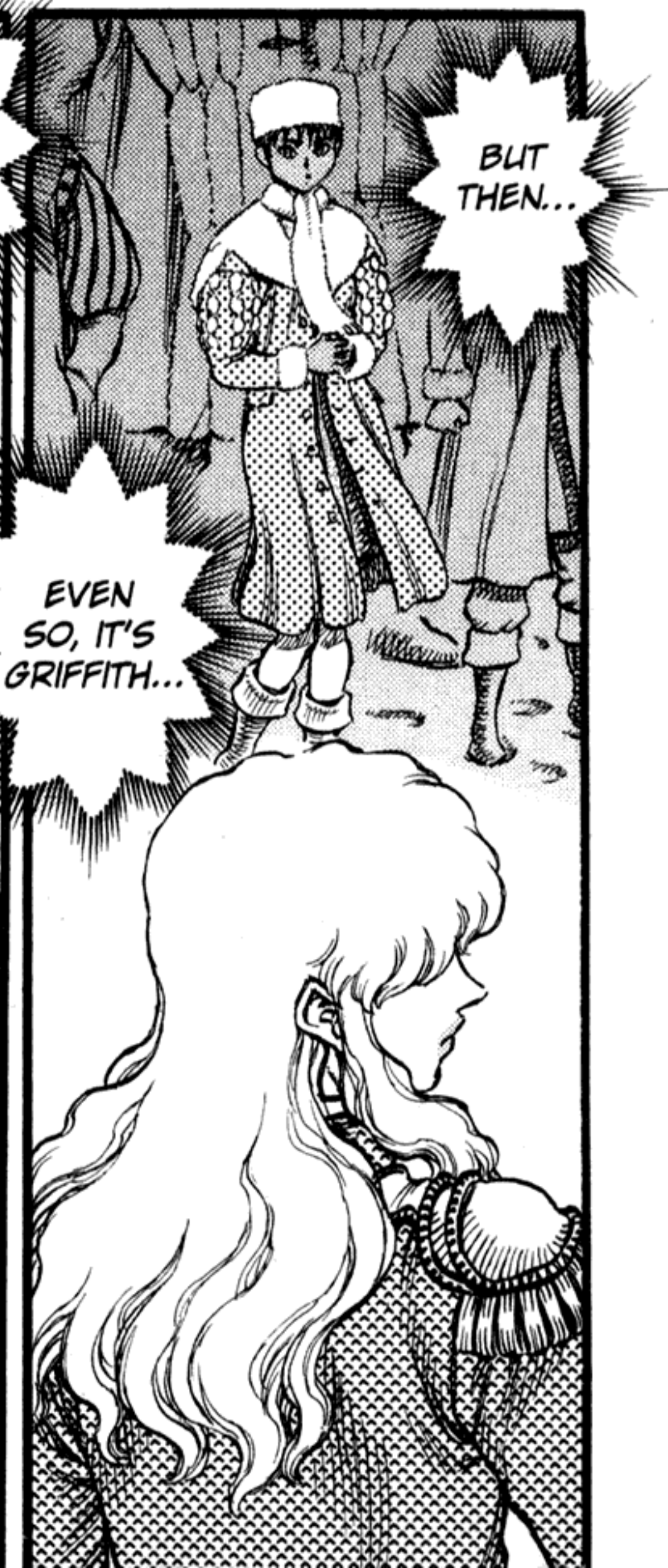
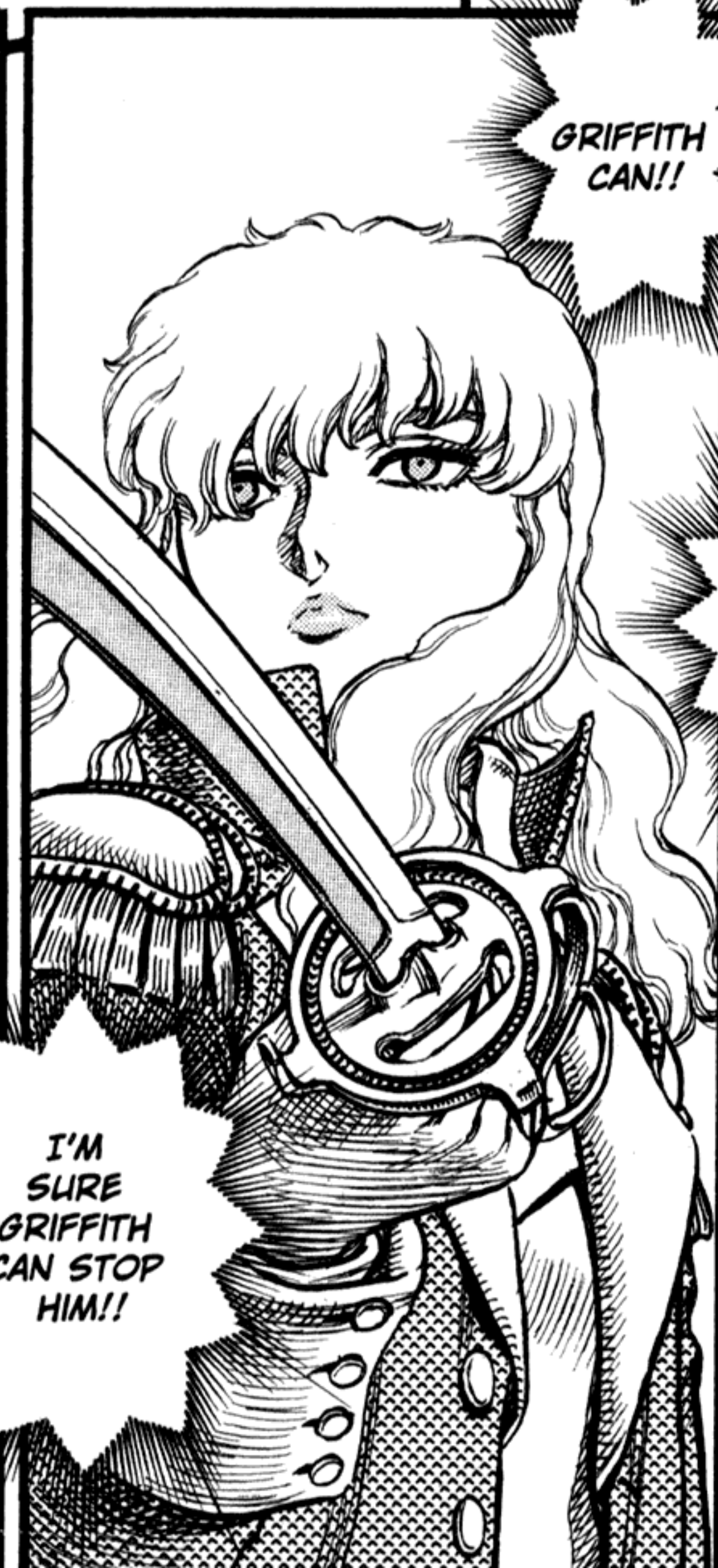
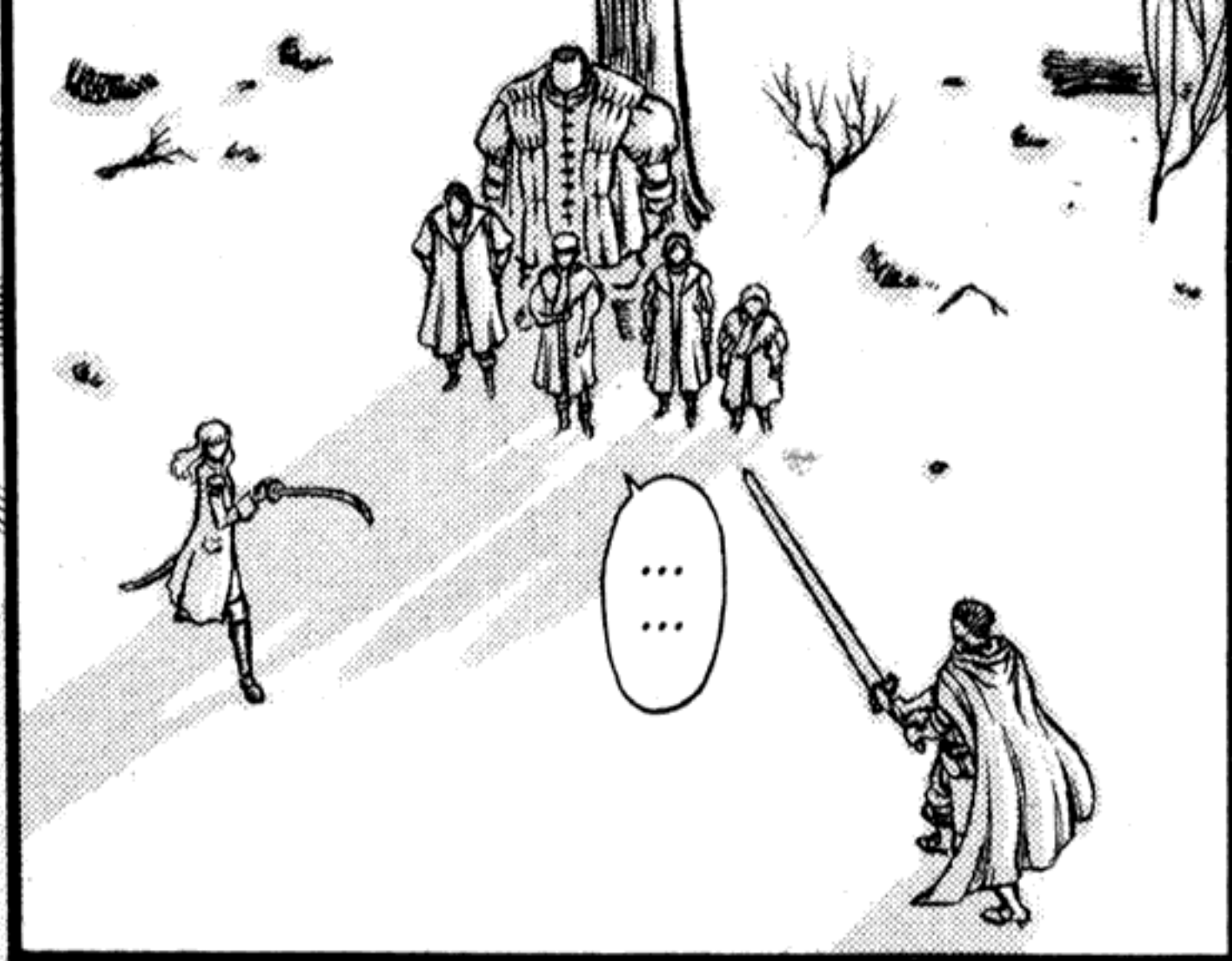
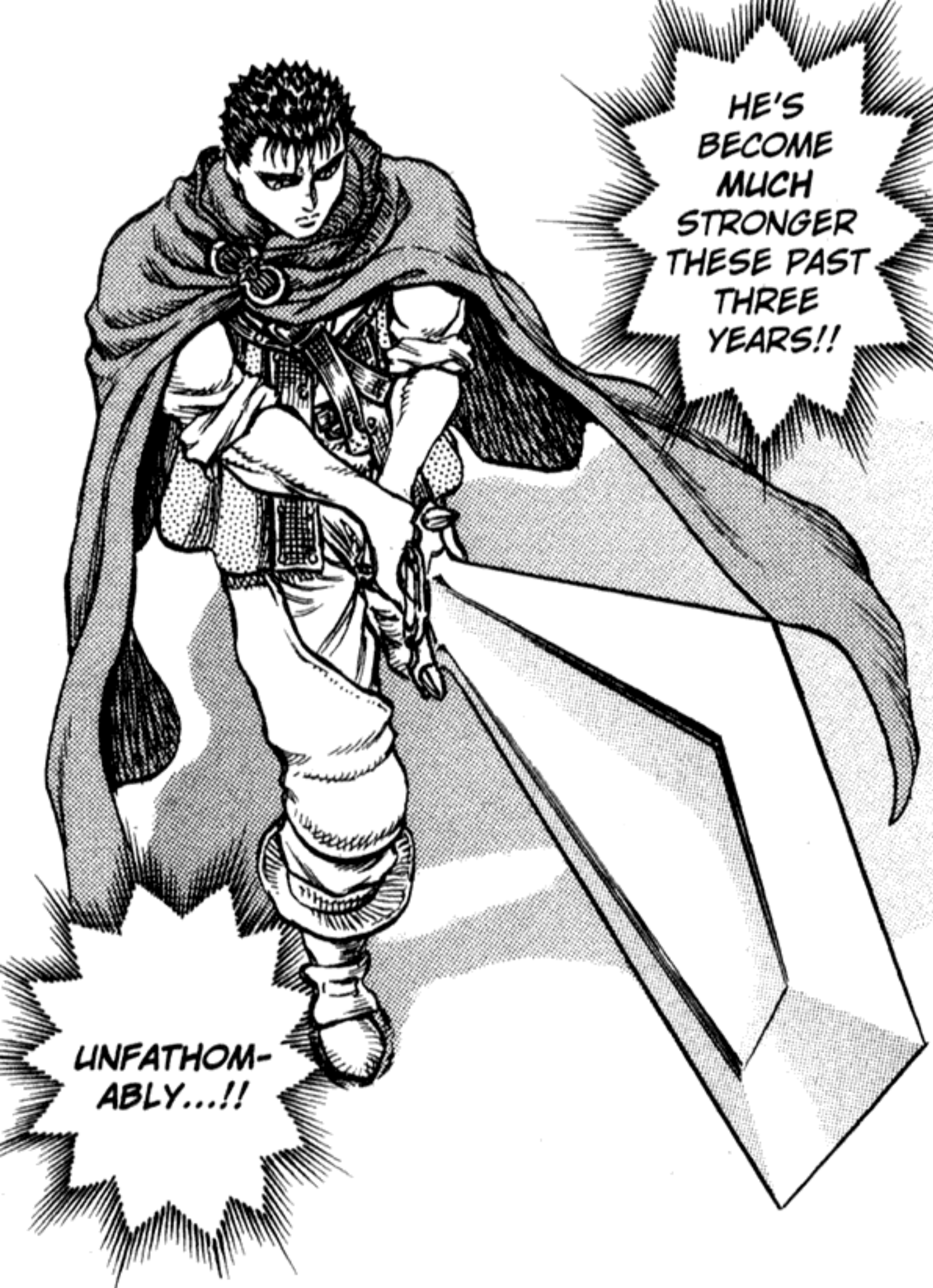


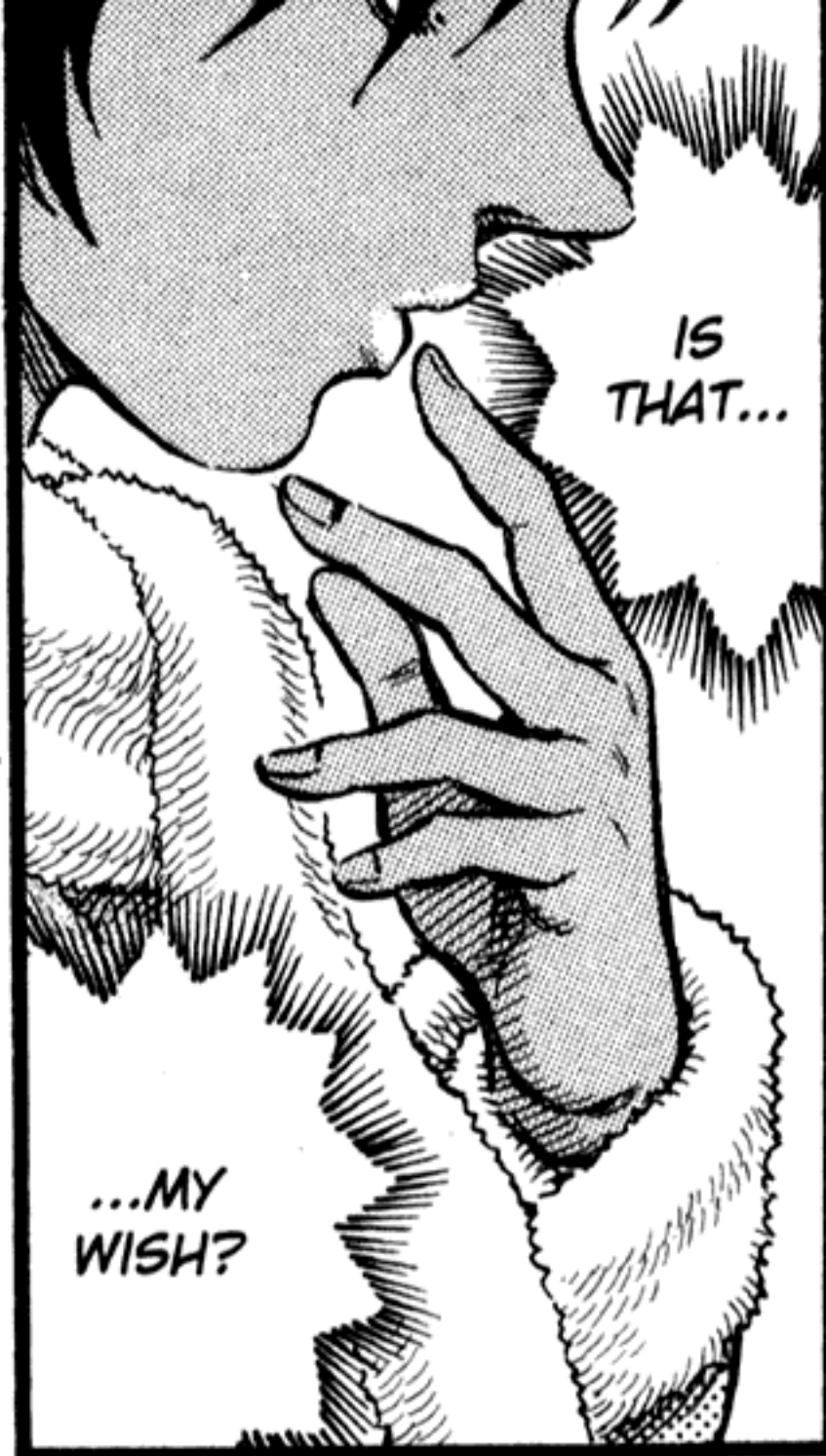
FINE
BY
ME.

IT ALL
STARTED WITH
A DUEL, NOW
IT ENDS
WITH ONE...



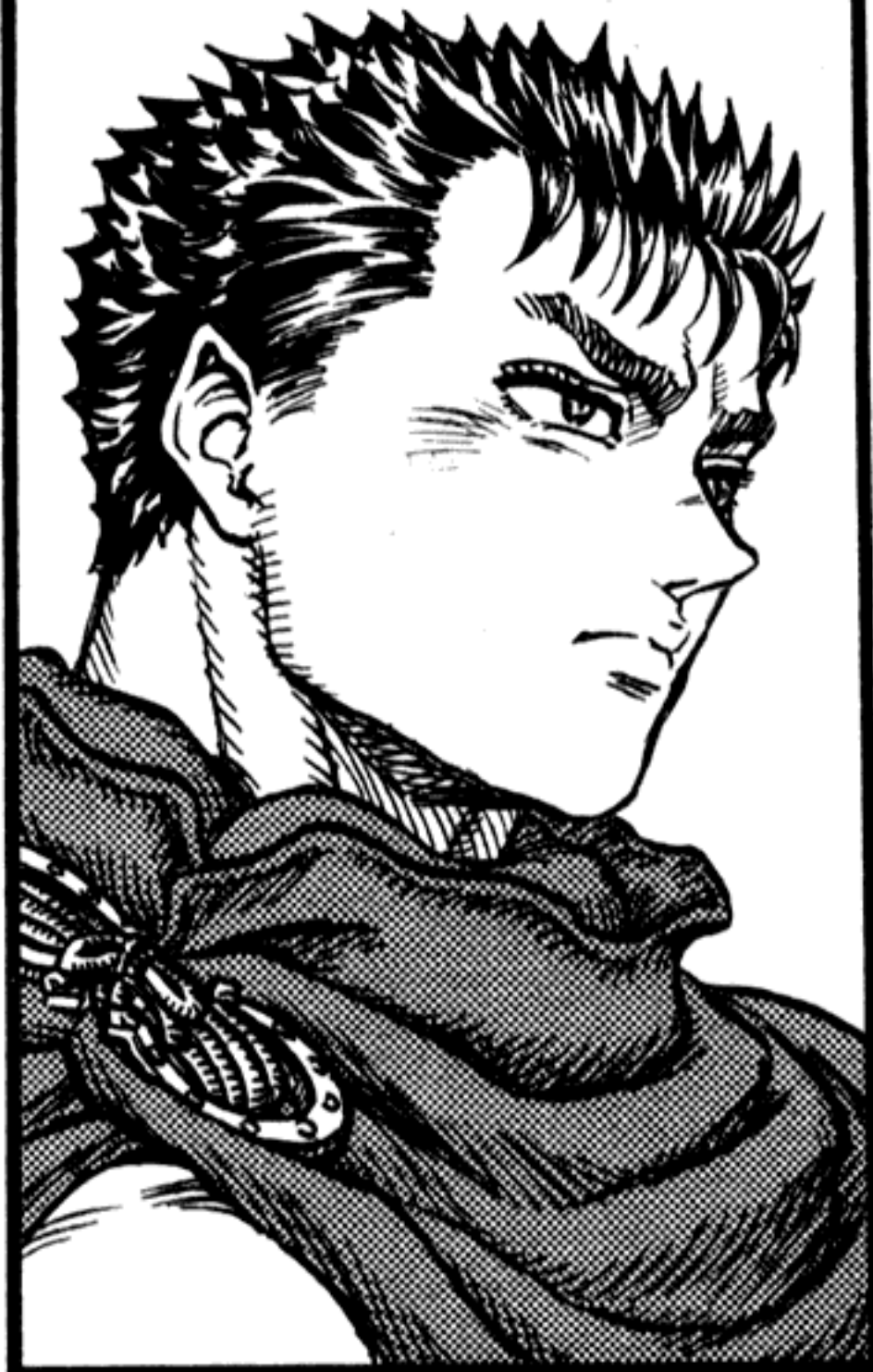
IT'S MUCH
MORE FITTING
THAN SOME
HALF-HEARTED
FAREWELL.





IS
THAT...

...MY
WISH?



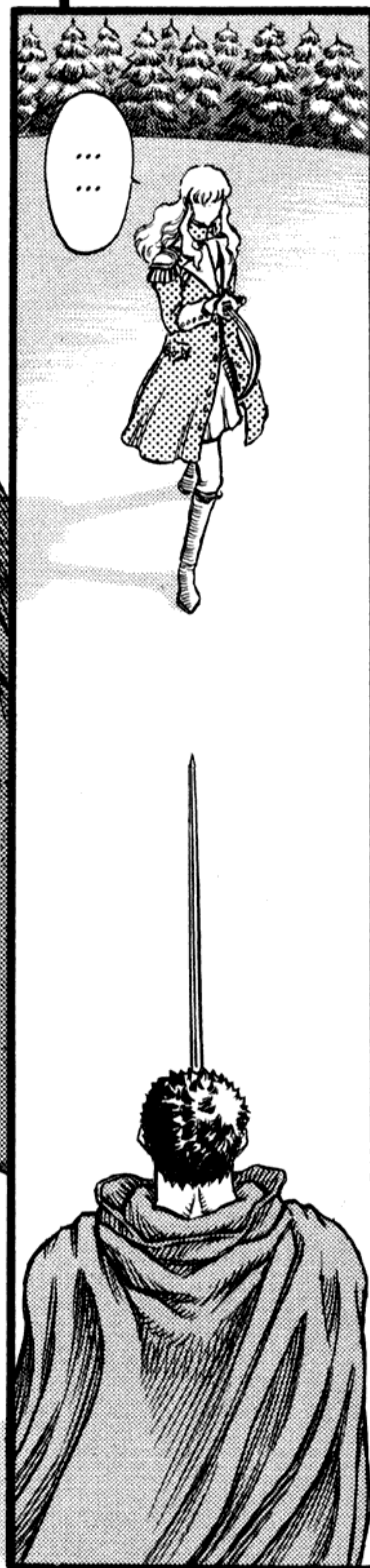
...TO
STAY?

...DO
I WANT
HIM...

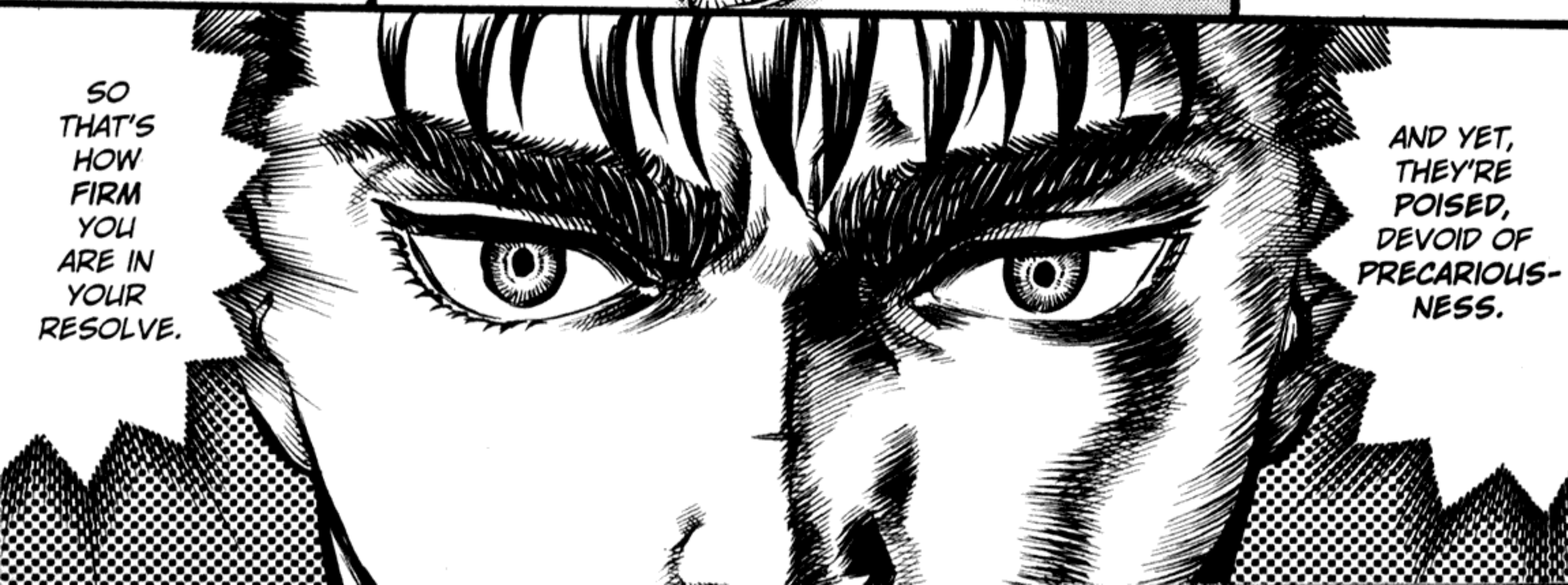
DO I
WANT...



I CAN'T SENSE
YOUR TYPICAL
BRAZEN FIGHTING
SPIRIT. YOUR EYES
REMAIN CALM.



SO
THAT'S
HOW
FIRM
YOU
ARE IN
YOUR
RESOLVE.



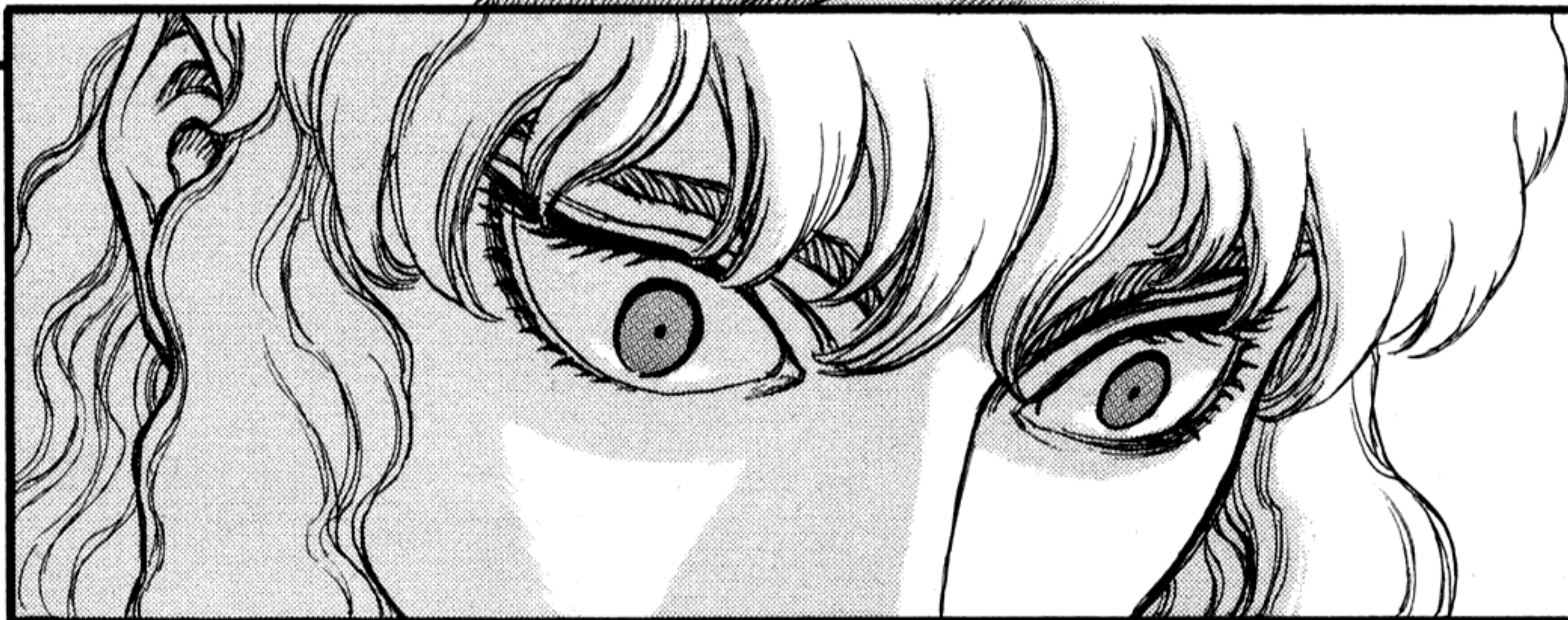
AND YET,
THEY'RE
POISED,
DEVOID OF
PRECARIOUS-
NESS.

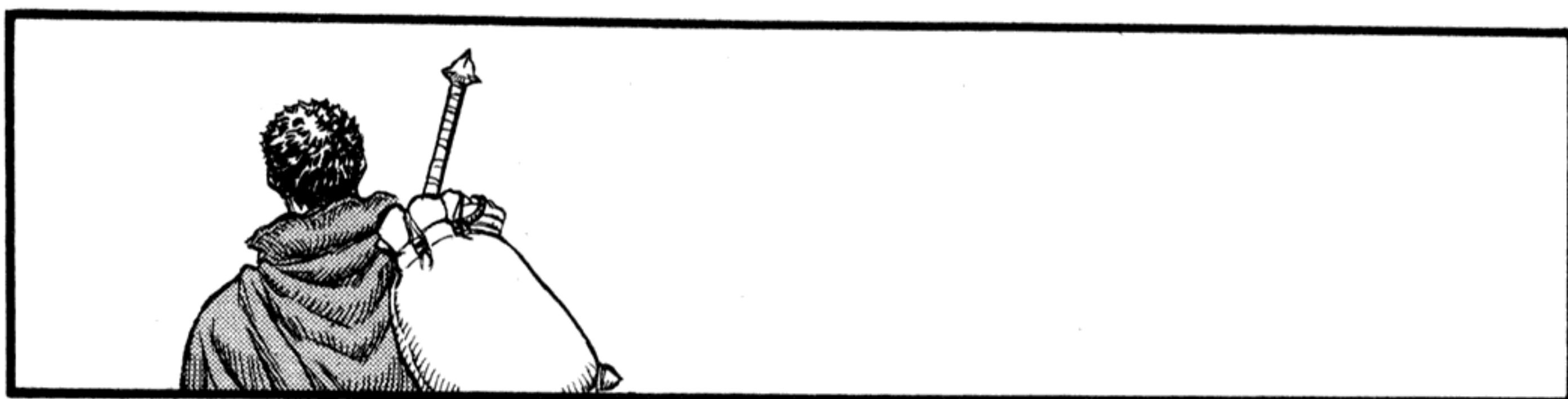


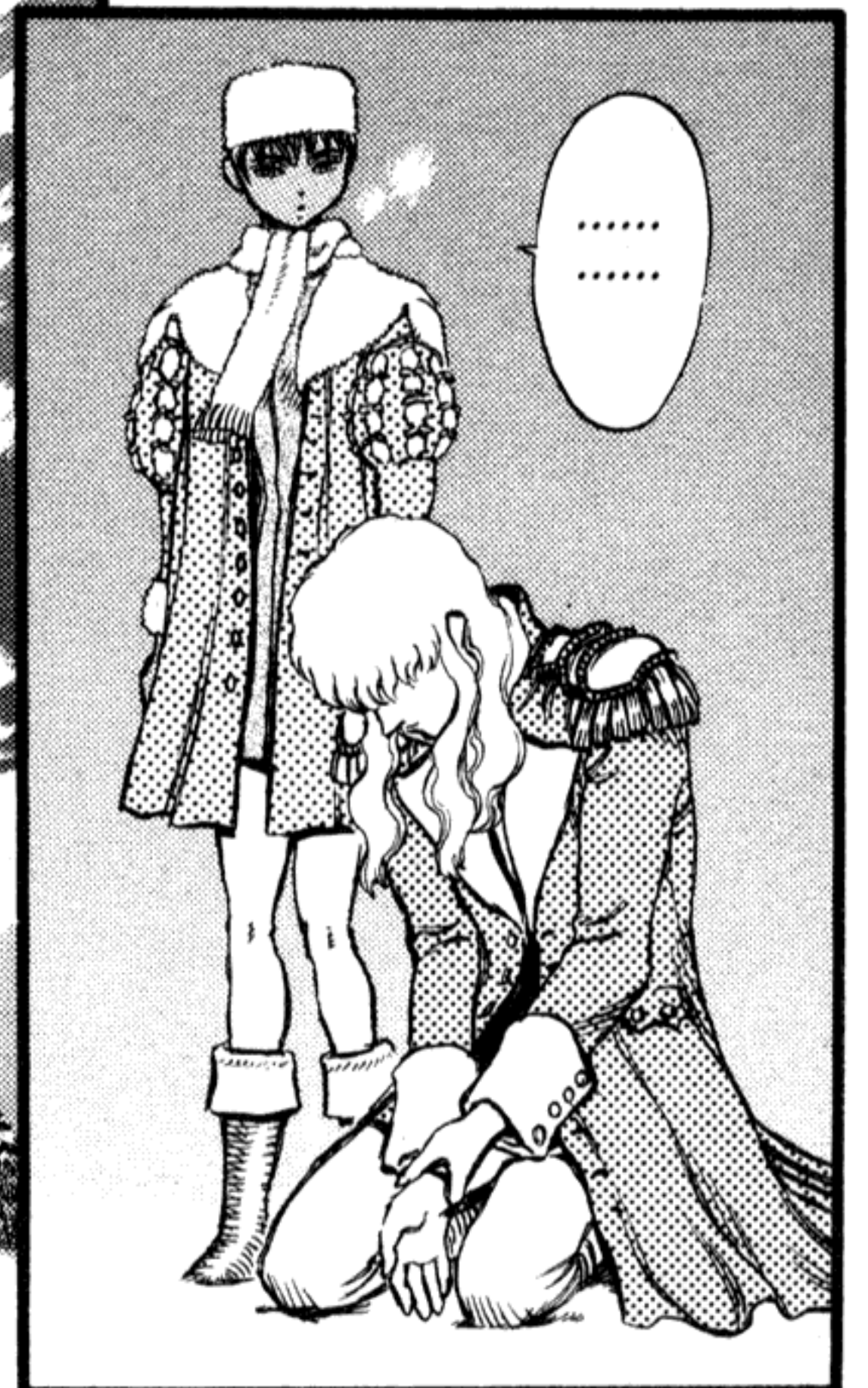
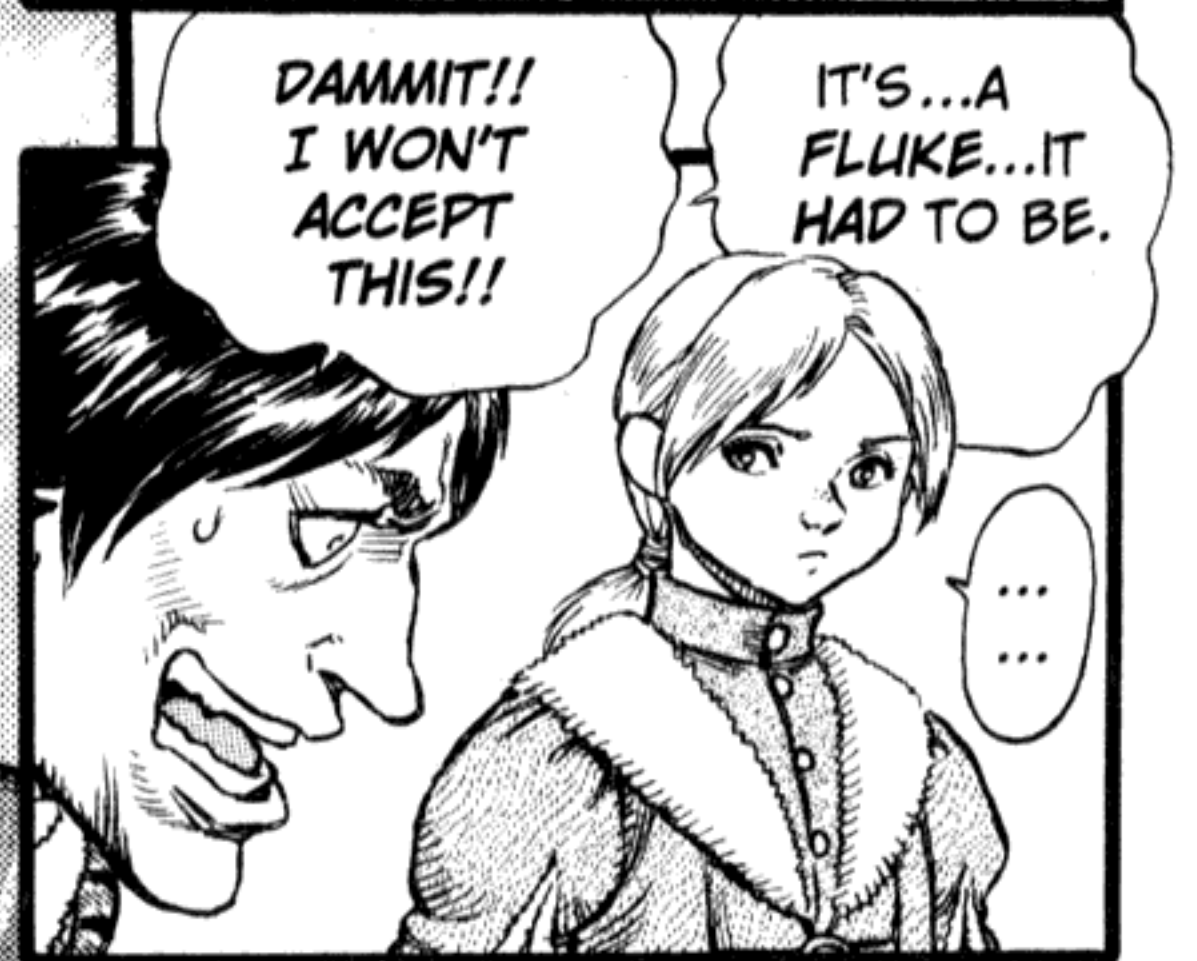
DEFLECT
IT AND
...?!



TAKE
CARE...









...IS
MORE
DISTANT...
FARTHER
OFF.

THE
PLACE
YOU
WANT
TO
GO...



SO...IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
YOU'LL
STAND UP.



IT'S
PETTY...
A SMALL
THING.

IT'S LIKE
STUMBLING
ON A ROCK
ON THE
ROADSIDE.



IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

AND
YOU'LL
START
WALKING.

SOON...



THE MORNING DEPARTURE (3): END